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CENTER FOR IRISH PROGRAMS

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# IRISH STUDIES

## Professor Nicholas Allen named Burns Scholar for Spring 2011

The Center for Irish Programs is pleased to welcome Professor Nicholas Allen as the Burns Visiting Scholar for the spring 2011 semester. Allen is incoming director and the Moore Institute Professor at the National University of Ireland, Galway. He has published widely on twentieth-century literature and culture, with an established interest in allied fields including film, photography, and the history of the book. His record includes two monographs and three edited collections and essays in various venues. He is currently writing a cultural history of 1916 for Cambridge University Press, and has edited with Cormac O'Malley the post-civil war papers of Ernie O'Malley, which will be published later this year.

Professor Allen has taught in the broad field of literature in Europe and America, having served four years with tenure at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. In addition, he has lectured at the Smithsonian Institution and Duke, Cambridge, and Oxford universities. His teaching ranges the broad field of twentieth-century Anglophone literature and culture. Recognition of his work includes the inaugural award of the Eda Sagarra Medal for Excellence in Research by the Irish Research Council for the Humanities and Social Sciences; a Woodruff Library Fellowship from Emory University; a Mellon Fellowship to study at the Harry Ransom Humanities Research Centre, the University of Texas at Austin; an IBM Junior Faculty Research Development Award; and two Spray-Randleigh Fellowships at North Carolina.

Professor Allen and his wife, Louise, are the parents of three young children.



Professor Nicholas Allen

## BC Annual Creative Writers Series

Irish Studies continues its commitment to bringing Ireland's best creative writers to Chestnut Hill. This spring, we are delighted to welcome back to campus two of the most important authors of our time. On Wednesday, February 9 Anne Enright gave a public reading at 7:00 p.m. in Devlin Hall. Colm Tóibín's reading will take place on Thursday, April 14, also at 7:00 p.m., in the same venue. Readings are free and open to the public, and everyone is welcome to attend. Enright and Tóibín will also meet and work with students in the English department and Irish Studies program.

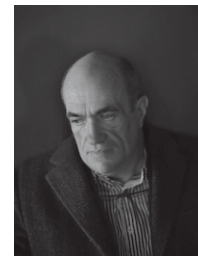


Anne Enright

Winner of the 2007 Man Booker Prize for *The Gathering*, Anne Enright has also received the Rooney Prize for Irish Literature and has been a writer fellow at Trinity College Dublin. Her work has appeared in *The Paris Review*, *Harper's*, *The New Yorker*, *The London Review of Books*, and *The Penguin Book of Irish Fiction*. She is also the author of *Yesterday's Weather* (short stories), *The Pleasures of Eliza Lynch*, *What Are You Like? The Wig My Father Wore*, and *The Portable Virgin* (short stories). Most recently, she edited and wrote the introduction for *The Granta Book of Irish Short Stories* (2011).

Winner of the 2009 Costa Novel of the Year Award for *Brooklyn*, Colm Tóibín is the foremost Irish novelist of his generation. He is the author of five additional novels (*The South*, *The Heather Blazing*, *The Story of the Night*, *The Blackwater Lightship*, and *The Master*), two collections of short stories (*Mothers and Sons* and *The Empty Family* [2011]) as well as collections of literary and cultural criticism, travel writing, journalism, and a play. His writing appears regularly in

*The New York Review of Books*, *The London Review of Books*, and *The Dublin Review*. He has won numerous awards, including the International IMPAC Dublin Literary Award, the Prix du Meilleur Livre Étranger, the *LA Times* Novels of the Year, the Ferro-Grumley Prize, and the Edge Hill Prize as well as being twice short-listed for the Man Booker Award. In 2006, he was appointed to the Arts Council in Ireland. He is currently Leonard Milberg Lecturer in Irish Letters at Princeton University.



Colm Tóibín

## BC/QUB Faculty Exchange

Dr. Peter McLoughlin, a lecturer in the School of Politics at Queen's University Belfast, will be the QUB Visiting Scholar at Boston College the week of April 11, 2011. The author of *John Hume and the Revision of Irish Nationalism* (Manchester University Press, 2010), McLoughlin has published widely on the politics of the Northern Ireland problem. Professor Kevin O'Neill will be the Boston College Visiting Scholar at QUB during the week of May 23 as this exchange program concludes its third year. Boston College professors Ruth-Ann Harris and Vera Kreilkamp were participating faculty in previous years, during which professors Graham Walker and Desmond Bell were the corresponding QUB visitors at our Center.

## Gaelic Roots Series

Boston College's Gaelic Roots Music, Song, Dance, Workshop, and Lecture Series witnessed another round of well-attended and well-received concerts that featured Jimmy Noonan and Oisín McAuley (September 30), Brendan Begley and Caoimhín Ó Raghallaigh (October 21), James Keane (November 18), and Laurel Martin and Mark Roberts (December 7). The latter event included appearances by students in the BC

### CONTACT INFORMATION

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fiddle and tin whistle class, who were led, respectively, by Seamus Connolly and Colleen White.

The following Sunday, White and fiddler Shane Cornyn provided music for the Eire Society's annual reception in the John Burns Library.



Shannon Heaton

Boston College's Gaelic Roots spring program continues to train the spotlight on the Irish instrumental music tradition, beginning with a concert held on February 3 by three of Boston's most highly regarded Celtic musicians: Shannon Heaton, Maeve Gilchrist, and Paddy League.

The series, sponsored by the Boston College Center for Irish Programs and directed by Sullivan Artist-in-Residence Seamus Connolly, also will feature the celebrated fiddle-piano duo of Brian Conway and Brendan Dolan, and virtuoso flute and whistle player Laurence Nugent.

All events are free and open to the public, and take place from 6:30-8:30 p.m. in Connolly House, 300 Hammond Street, on the BC campus.

Although none are native to Boston, Heaton, Gilchrist and League have become integral to the local traditional music scene. Heaton, who also performs in a duo with husband Matt and in the quartet Long Time Courting, is a highly skilled flute and whistle player and vocalist; Scottish native Gilchrist brings jazz and world-beat styles to her harp playing; and League is a solid, much-sought-after accompanist on guitar and bodhrán. Gilchrist and League appeared on Heaton's recent solo album, *The Blue Dress*.

Conway, who performs with Dolan on March 31, is one of the most celebrated Irish-American fiddlers of his time, a practitioner of the highly ornamented Sligo style whose distinct tone and "lift" have distinguished him as a superior player and instructor. Dolan has carried on the pioneering piano style of his father, Felix, bringing out the music's rhythm in a tasteful, dexterous fashion. Conway and Dolan are members of The Pride of New York, a quartet that also includes ac-



Brian Conway

cordionist Billy McComiskey and flute-whistle player Joannie Madden.

Closing out the Gaelic Roots slate on April 12 is Laurence Nugent, a native of County Fermanagh now living in Chicago, whose playing is known for its exuberance and rhythmic flourishes. He has appeared with The Chieftains, Shane McGowan, Van Morrison, The Green Fields of America, Martin Hayes, Dennis Cahill and Paddy Keenan, among others.

For more information, and for directions to Connolly House, e-mail [irish@bc.edu](mailto:irish@bc.edu) or call 617-552-6396.

## Burns Library Report

The Burns recently acquired a significant collection of more than 1200 Northern Ireland political pamphlets from the Linen Hall Library, Belfast. Linen Hall, the last surviving subscribing library in Ireland, is most well known for its extraordinary collection of materials on "The Troubles" in Northern Ireland. It also boasts extensive collections in all areas of Irish interest, including local studies, travel, heraldry, poetry, theatre, and genealogy. In 1999, Linen Hall and BC Libraries signed a memorandum of understanding to share resources, enhance access to each other's collections, and promote knowledge and understanding. As part of this arrangement, Linen Hall offered for purchase duplicates of its political pamphlets collection, and Burns happily accepted. The addition of these pamphlets greatly strengthens the Burns Library's collection on Northern Ireland, arguably the richest outside Ireland. These pamphlets are being individually cataloged and the catalog record for each item will soon be available online.

Digitization of rare and unique audio materials in the Burns Library's Irish Music Center is ongoing. A detailed inventory of digital audio compilations in the "Seamus Connolly Papers" is now available for download by visiting the "archives" tab on the libraries' Irish Music Research Guide—[libguides.bc.edu/irishmusic](http://libguides.bc.edu/irishmusic). Digitization of other Boston-based collections, such as the "Johnny and Mary Muise and Janine (Muise) Randall Recordings of Cape Breton and Irish Music," is also underway. Recent acquisitions include additions to the "Eugene (Gene) F. Frain Irish Music Collection" and the "Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Eireann North America Collection of Irish Music Materials." Please contact the Burns Library Irish Music Center at [imc@bc.edu](mailto:imc@bc.edu)



or 617-552-3956 for more information about these and other collections.

The original phase of digitization of the “Bobbie Hanvey Collection of Photographic Negatives” is nearing completion. More than 12,000 of the 19,000 images on Northern Ireland by Downpatrick, Co. Down photographer Bobbie Hanvey have been scanned and may be viewed on the BC Libraries’ Website at: <http://www.bc.edu/sites/libraries/hanvey/index.html>. Hanvey’s photographs comprise a comprehensive documentation of people and life in the North of Ireland beginning in the 1970s through circa 2007. Some photographs feature subjects photographed in various other locations in Ireland. The collection contains portraits, candid images (including weddings and other social events) as well as journalistic images covering public, paramilitary, and political activity. Boston College Libraries, in order to create access for scholars and any interested parties, has initiated a project to digitize, describe, and host the photographs. The collection is arranged in 13 series, seven of which have been digitized thus far. The collection totals more than 50,000 images.

In February 2011, Burns Library will host the celebrated exhibit, *To Love Two Countries: Ireland’s Greatest Generation in America*, with Photographs by John Minihan. This exhibit is a moving tribute to the Irish who came to the United States in the early twentieth century. It was commissioned and presented by the Irish Arts Center in New York City and the Consulate of Ireland. Following its successful run in New York City, the exhibit is being shown in New England with the cooperation of the photographer and presented in partnership with leading community organizations, the Irish Department of Foreign Affairs, and the Consulate of Ireland in Boston.

John Minihan’s photographs of such luminaries as Samuel Beckett, Edna O’Brien, Gloria Swanson, Ray Charles, Al Pacino, and Diana Spencer have established him as one of the finest portrait photographers of his generation. The subjects in *To Love Two Countries* are real people—untouched by “celebrity”—who emigrated from Ireland to America in the early decades of the twentieth century.

### Kathleen Williams, Irish Studies Librarian

Kathleen Williams took up residence in the John J. Burns Library in September as the O’Neill/Burns Librarian for Irish Studies. Kathleen has been engaged

in Irish Studies collection development at the Thomas P. O’Neill, Jr. Library for over fifteen years in support of the Boston College Irish Studies Program. Kathleen has personally participated in the program and earlier received an M.A. in Irish Literature and Culture. At the O’Neill Library, she took the lead in building a strong Irish and Irish-American historical newspaper collection, collecting retrospective works of Irish women writers, and documenting the history of “The Troubles” and the “Peace Process”. Kathleen will continue collecting for the O’Neill Library, and will work closely with staff, faculty, and students to enhance access to Burns Library special collections, developing new and innovative ways to integrate these materials into teaching.

### Archive on “The Troubles” in Northern Ireland

*Voices from the Grave*, a book by Irish journalist Ed Moloney, was published in 2010 by Faber and Faber of London. It is the inaugural volume of a planned series of publications drawn from the Boston College Center for Irish Programs’ IRA/UVF Oral History Archive on “The Troubles” in Northern Ireland under the co-general editorship of University Professor of History Thomas E. Hachey and Burns Librarian Robert O’Neill. This book, like others that will follow, is based on transcripts of interviews with Irish Republican Army and Ulster Volunteer Force veterans, most of whom had key operational roles during the conflict. These documents are housed among the University’s Special Collections within the Burns Library archives. There are, however, prescriptive limitations governing access to these papers. Boston College is contractually committed to sequestering the taped transcriptions unless otherwise given a full release, in writing, by the interviewees, or until their demise.

The unanticipated early deaths of two men, Brendan Hughes and David Irvine, who were arguably two of the most prominent personalities within the IRA and UVF, respectively, made possible the publication of *Voices from the Grave*. Multiple interviews with each of these principals were conducted by two men, one an IRA veteran and the other a UVF operative, who subsequently took degrees at Queen’s University Belfast and were trusted by their former comrades. It is hoped that this large and unique archive will prove to be a resource of unprecedented value for future studies attempting to better understand the phenomenology of

societal violence. A documentary based on the book was televised in Ireland on RTE in October 2010.

## Boston College-Ireland's Current Activities

### Irish Sporting Heritage

The Boston College-Ireland project, sponsored by the Department of Tourism, Culture and Sport, has now entered its final twelve months. The project, which seeks to explore and record Ireland's Sporting Heritage and place it in the wider context of the country's social history, has collected thousands of items of data. These are now accessible in a searchable database (by place, county, and sport) through the website [www.irishsportingheritage.com](http://www.irishsportingheritage.com). Work is currently underway to complete a book, which will mark the end of the project. This is due for publication in September 2011, and will include an overview of why heritage is important to Ireland, the place of sport in the context of Ireland, and approximately 60 specific examples of historic sporting sites from across the country. The book, which will be written by Mike Cronin and Róisín Higgins, the research fellow on the project, will be fully illustrated.

### Rev. William B. Neenan, S.J., Visiting Fellowship in Irish Studies

This year's Neenan Fellowship has been awarded to Timothy McMahon, associate professor of history at Marquette University. While in Ireland, he will work on a project that forms part of an anticipated monograph—with the working title of *Éire Imperator: Ireland's Imperial Ambivalence*—that examines Irish participation in and attitudes toward the British Empire. McMahon completed his Ph.D. at the University of Wisconsin-Madison on the Gaelic Revival, which was subsequently published as *Grand Opportunity: The Gaelic Revival and Irish Society, 1893-1910* (Syracuse, NY: Syracuse University Press, 2008). He also edited Pádraig Ó Fathaigh's *War of Independence: Recollections of a Galway Gaelic Leaguer* (Cork: Cork University Press, 2000) and has published a number of articles in journals and edited collections.

### 75 Years of Aer Lingus

In 2011, Ireland's national airline, Aer Lingus, will celebrate its 75th anniversary. To coincide with the anniversary of the first ever flight by the airline, from

Dublin to Bristol in May 1936, Mike Cronin has been commissioned to write a history of the airline, its staff, and the people who have flown on it. Today, Aer Lingus flies more than ten million passengers on its routes from Ireland across Europe and into the United States, a startling rate of growth considering only five passengers flew on its inaugural flight in 1936. The airline has played a significant role in linking the Irish diaspora with 'home,' and Boston has always played a key role in Aer Lingus's transatlantic routes since they were first opened in 1958.



Eamon de Valera with Aer Lingus ground staff, Dublin Airport, 1947.

The story of the airline, very much the brainchild of Sean Lemass, mirrors the history of the nation. While it significantly embraced modernization, the airline struggled in its early years to find a foothold. It was the opening up of the Atlantic in 1958 (a crossing that had been delayed by the Fine Gael government a decade earlier citing economic hardship) that transformed the airline, and made the shamrock tailfin a familiar sight to travelers from Chicago to Warsaw. The book draws heavily on Aer Lingus's own archive, as well as on material from government sources and the personal testimony of those who have worked for the airline. It will be published in May 2011.

### Summer Programs

This summer, Boston College-Ireland will be organizing two different activities, which are open to both BC students and those from other universities.

The first offering is a three-week course on Irish culture. The course is taught by BC faculty, and allows students to study while they travel throughout Dublin, Belfast, and Galway. Most afternoons include cultural visits encompassing the National Gallery of Ireland, the GAA Museum, the Aran Islands, the Cliffs of Moher, and much more. The program runs during the month of June. Second, there is an eight-week internship program, where students work in a host of institutions ranging from non-profits to educational, heritage, government, and business venues. These are all based in Dublin, but there is the opportunity for students to travel throughout Ireland and across Europe while working. Each week, there is a social activity organized by Boston College-Ireland. For details regarding either of these courses, as well as other summer programs available in Ireland, contact the Office of International Programs: <http://www.bc.edu/offices/international/>

## The Irish Institute Spring 2011

The Irish Institute's mission is to support the Northern Irish peace process and promote reconciliation across the island of Ireland through educational seminars and study visits for public officials, business leaders, and educators. These programs create the space for a truly cross-border, cross-community conversation on issues central to society. Its work is made possible through a major congressional grant, which is administered through the U.S. Department of State.

On the strength of this grant, the Institute will design and deliver seven professional development programs during the current academic year. Each program will consist of 14 policymakers and practi-

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## CENTER FOR IRISH PROGRAMS SPRING 2011 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### Wednesday, February 9, 2011

Anne Enright

Winner of the 2007 Man Booker Prize for *The Gathering*, Anne Enright has also received the Rooney Prize for Irish Literature and has been a writer fellow at Trinity College Dublin. Her work has appeared in *The Paris Review*, *Harper's*, *The New Yorker*, *The London Review of Books*, and *The Penguin Book of Irish Fiction*. She is also the author of *Yesterday's Weather* (short stories), *The Pleasures of Eliza Lynch*, *What Are You Like? The Wig My Father Wore* and *The Portable Virgin* (short stories). Most recently, she edited and wrote the introduction for *The Granta Book of Irish Short Stories* (2011).  
Devlin Hall, Room 008, 7:00 p.m.

### Tuesday, March 1, 2011

Nicholas Allen

Professor Nicholas Allen, the Spring 2011 Burns Scholar chair holder at Boston College will deliver a lecture titled, "Jack Yeats and the Picture of Ireland."

The Thompson Room of the Burns Library, 4 p.m.

A reception follows. All are welcome.

### Thursday, March 31, 2011

Irish Fiddle and Piano

Concert by Brian Conway and Brendan Dolan

Connolly House, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

### Tuesday, April 12, 2011

Peter McLoughlin, Lecturer in the School of Politics at Queen's University Belfast, will deliver a lecture titled "Before Hope and History: Irish America and the Political Foundations for President Clinton's Northern Ireland Peace Initiative",

The Thompson Room of the Burns Library, 4 p.m.

A reception follows. All are welcome.

### Tuesday, April 12, 2011

Irish Flute and Whistle

Concert by Larry Nugent

Connolly House, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

### Thursday, April 14, 2011

Colm Tóibín

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Devlin Hall, Room 008, 7:00 p.m.

tioners, seven from Northern Ireland and seven from the Republic of Ireland, who will visit Boston and another U.S. city.

The first group of professionals arrived in November to examine standards, trends, and developments in the field of journalism. Participants, drawn from a diverse group of media including online, newspaper, radio, and television, met with their American counterparts in Boston and in New York City.



Participants of the Empowering Marginalized Youth program gather for the Burns Dinner hosted by University Professor Thomas E. Hachey.

In December, the Irish Institute hosted a program exploring ways to empower young people living in disadvantaged areas. Of particular interest to program participants were social enterprise and entrepreneurship programs designed to promote active involvement in civil society. The group was comprised of community leaders, educators, representatives from law enforcement, legal advocates, and youth rehabilitation experts. In addition to meeting counterparts in Boston, the visitors had an opportunity to speak with field experts in Los Angeles and Long Beach, California.

The new year began with a program that explores issues surrounding philanthropy and community development. Through meetings with their U.S. colleagues in Boston and Phoenix, Arizona, this group studied the expanding reach of private philanthropy, the role of social and economic indicators in funding programs, endowment management, board membership criteria, and issues of under-funding.

Marine renewable energy is the focus of the April program. The Irish coastline offers an ideal place for offshore wind, wave, and tidal energy production. In order to capitalize on Ireland's natural marine resources, the contingent of marine energy leaders, government officials, policymakers, academics, and energy experts will examine the regulation and financing of marine energy, and explore, with their counterparts in the United States, the development of marine environments.

In May, the Irish Institute will bring a delegation to New Orleans, Louisiana, to examine emergency planning and preparedness strategies, public safety inter-agency connectivity, and crisis communication. Participants will exchange ideas on how to deal with natural disasters, pandemic disease, transportation accidents, and acts of terrorism. Also in May, a group of business leaders, economic strategists, government policymakers, and academics will visit Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, for the Economic Regeneration in Urban Centers program. The focus of this program will be to explore how small business development, corporate incentive and investment schemes, workforce education, and improved infrastructure can play a role in promoting vibrant, economically sustainable urban centers.

The grant year will close with a program in September entitled Informed Political Decision Making: Polling and Public Opinion. Those academics, researchers, lobbyists, and members of the media participating in this program will visit Boston and Washington, D.C., to examine how different polling methods may be used as a means of determining public opinion. Participants in this program will identify how U.S. decision makers respond to polls and how survey data informs their policies and positions.

In addition to its U.S. Government-funded work, the Irish Institute will also deliver and develop a range of custom educational exchange programs. In the spring semester, the Institute will continue its long-term relationship with the University of Ulster by hosting the U.U. executive leadership program, the U.U. developing managers program, and the U.U. arts & business program. Also during the summer of 2011, the Institute will welcome MBA students from the Management Center of Innsbruck, Austria, and a group of MBA students from the Universidad de Deusto in Bilbao, Spain.



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## Dr. Robert Mauro, Newly Appointed Director of the Irish Institute

Robert Mauro was appointed by the executive director of the Center to succeed outgoing Institute Director Dr. Niamh Lynch. Dr. Mauro earned a Ph.D. in political science at the Rockefeller College of Public Affairs and Policy at the State University of New York in Albany. His dissertation, *The Practice of Ideology: A Theory of Ideology and Conceptual Analysis of Irish Republicanism*, investigated the functions of Northern Irish ideology and mapped the relationships between concepts, language, and actions in contemporary Irish Republicanism. This investigation included an analysis of the ways in which Irish Republicans understood their ideology in relation to the peace process, their political and ideological competitors, and their own ideological past. The research for this project was conducted in Northern Ireland over several years and made extensive use of archival material and interviews conducted by the author. Robert has presented this research at numerous invited

colloquia and academic conferences such as the annual meetings of the American Political Science Association, UK Political Studies Association, the Political Studies Association of Ireland, and at the Centre for Political Ideologies at the University of Oxford. In addition, the *Journal of Political Ideologies* and *PS: Political Science and Politics* have published some of this research. His research also provided the basis for a graduate-level course at UCD on Northern Ireland's politics.

Dr. Mauro recently completed a post-doctoral research fellowship in the Institute for British-Irish Studies at University College Dublin titled *Breaking the Patterns of Conflict: The Irish State, the British Dimension, and the Northern Ireland Conflict*. He is married to Barbara Pyke (from Dublin).



Dr. Robert Mauro, director of the Irish Institute.

*Irish Studies* is edited by Joan Reilly with Benjamin Killips.

For more information, please contact: Irish Studies at Boston College, Connolly House, Hammond Street, Chestnut Hill, MA 02467, 617-552-3938, or e-mail [irish@bc.edu](mailto:irish@bc.edu). See our Website at [www.bc.edu/irish](http://www.bc.edu/irish).