



The Cairde Connection

"Keeping the Irish Arts Alive!"

Irish Cultural Center at
Elms College

Volume 11 & Issue 6

July 2010

Fall film series promises great free entertainment

Heather Lowe announces the free Irish film series to be held on three consecutive Wednesdays of September, 2010. She has chosen the films and will introduce each before the showing. They include two documentaries and a romance. Come enjoy the films and the green popcorn. The films are:

September 15 "Waveriders" (75 min, 2008, Documentary) This captivating documentary traces the rebirth of surfing catalyzed by an Irish immigrant to Hawaii. In the early 20th century, George Freeth taught Hawaiians to surf, breathing new life into an old

past time. This big wave journey travels from Hawaii to the Irish Coast.

September 22 "Leap Year" (97 min, 2009, Romance Starring Amy Adams, Matthew Goode

Anna (Amy Adams) chooses February 29 to propose marriage to her "perfect" boyfriend, confident he'll accept because of an old Irish custom. However, after meeting Declan (Matthew Goode) en route to Dublin, Anna must reevaluate her original plan. Sometimes you can find what you really need in the most unexpected places.

September 29 "The Yellow Bittern:

the Life and Times of Liam Clancy" (105 min, 2009, Documentary) This film is a revealing portrait of ballad singer Liam Clancy. Packed with his personal film footage and classic narration style, this film covers all aspects of his professional and personal life. It was the last project he filmed before his death. Come see why Bob Dylan called him "the best ballad singer I'd ever heard in my whole life."

All films will be shown in the Elms College Alumnae Library Theater at 7:00 p.m. Save the dates and plan to join us.

Fulbright scholar to teach Irish classes

The Elms College will welcome Donegal native and Fulbright Foreign Language Teaching Assistant, Maitiú de Hal to the campus in September. He will teach a 3-credit Irish language course, as well as 2 non-credit Irish language courses in conjunction with the Irish Cultural Center each semester. The first semester runs from September 7-December 7, 2010. The courses will continue in the second semester beginning in January. The 3-credit course, Novice Irish I is offered Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 11:30 a.m.-12:20 p.m. To enroll, visit or call the Registrar's office at 265-2314. For those who are 65 or older, and who wish to audit the course, the cost is \$100, plus \$20 registration fee.

A non-credit course, Introductory Irish I is for those who have no prior knowledge of the language, and for those who have had only one or two semesters of study. The class is of-

fered beginning on Tuesday, September 14 from 6:45-8:45 p.m. A second non-credit course, Irish Conversation: Advanced Practice I will meet, beginning on Wednesday, September 15 from 6:45-7:45 p.m. This is geared for those who have taken the course for several semesters and have a good basic knowledge of Irish. To register for either non-credit course, call the Elms Division of Graduate Studies and Continuing Education at (413) 265-2218. Cost for each course is \$150 or \$100 for Irish Cultural Center members.

Maitiú de Hal has impressive credentials. He has taught Irish in varying settings: in the State system, Irish Summer colleges, extra tuition courses for trainee primary schools teachers and at a summer program in Chicago. He will receive his M.A. in Nua-Ghaeilge (Modern Irish) in September from the National University of Ireland, Galway. He also received

Contact the Center to make an appointment to use Rosetta Stone to learn the Irish language.

his B.A. in Irish and history and his Post-graduate diploma in education from the same university.

He is involved in an Irish language drama society at the university; he has a passion for music, both traditional and modern. He plays drums and the bodhran and is learning sean-nos singing.

Note of Sympathy

We extend our sympathy to Sr. Kathleen Keating and her family on the death of her brother Geoffrey; to Margaret Krystofik on the death of her son Michael; to Michael Carney on the death of his wife Maureen; to the family and friends of Judith Riordan.

Keep in prayer all those who are ill or in treatment.

The Irish Cultural Center, founded in 1999, strives to “keep the Irish arts alive.”

The Irish Cultural Center...

- Serves as a public forum for events, including lectures, musical presentations, films and exhibits
- Promotes ties between the Center and educational organizations in Ireland, especially with the Blasket Cultural Center
- Serves as an academic link with Irish American social organizations in Western New England.

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Successful wine tasting event raises funds



The second Wine Tasting with an Irish Accent proved a great success and raised funds for the Elms Irish Studies Minor program. The event was sponsored by Damien Collins of Light-

house Liquors of Chicopee and East Longmeadow and the Elms College Aramark Food Service. The Irish Studies Minor became a reality at the Elms College several years ago, and it was at that time that seven students took advantage of an opportunity to go to County Sligo for a two-week course in Celtic Studies at the Innisfree International College and Convention Centre at Lough Gill. The Center subsidized several of the students and it is just such an experience that we support.

This month another Elms student is studying at University of Galway with a subsidy from the Center.

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The Irish Studies Minor became a reality at the Elms College several years ago, and it was at that time



Pictures clockwise from top: Bagpiper, Dave Peters, Elms College student, welcomes the attendees.

Ann Gibbons, Caroline Murray, Billy Kelly and Sheila Kelly pause for a photo. Noreen Moriarty and Ellen McDonough enjoy the evening.

Celeste Donovan, Susan McNeil and Laura McNeil smile for the camera.



ITEMS FOR SALE:

\$3 TOG BOG E cling decals (or 2 for \$5)

\$10 women's key lime green v-neck t-shirt,

\$13 forest green unisex polo

Both shirt items are in small, medium, large, extra large; embroidered with a shamrock and the words Irish Cultural Center at Elms College

\$5 green tote bag, silkscreened with logo, slogan “Keeping the Irish arts alive” and Cairde of the Irish Cultural Center at Elms College

Fifth Annual Lá na Gaeilge - a great success By Gerald Costello

Stifling heat did not diminish the enthusiasm of over sixty students, teachers, and guests at the fifth annual La na Gaeilge at the Irish Cultural Center on June 8. Participants ranged from beginners to fluent speakers and attended from throughout Massachusetts, Connecticut and New York.

This year's program was especially entertaining. In addition to the language classes and workshops, there were two special presentations. Deirdre Ní Fhallúin, the Vice Consul from Boston's Irish Consulate, visited and delivered a lecture on the state of the language in Ireland. The presentation came alive by her relating her own experience of learning the language and by noting the reality that there are many people in Ireland who are hostile to the language. She discussed a number of government initiatives that have been launched to encourage the growth of the language. During an extensive question and answer session, she mentioned that there was a burgeoning Gaeltacht (Irish Speaking Area) in parts of the North. This may be an area that ultimately helps to preserve the language for the country.

The second special presentation was by Kate Chadbourne who not only taught a class, but also facilitated a singing workshop for all attendees

and guests. Although the words were challenging to those new to the language, each of us was encouraged to participate in Beidh Aonach Amaraich (There Will Be a Fair Tomorrow), Éirigh is Cuir Ort Do Chuid Éadai (Rise and Put on Your Clothes), and Báidín Fheilimí (Phelim's Little Boat). Kate's enthusiasm for the music and her desire to see all participants have fun made her a very engaging leader throughout the day.

Dr. Michael Carney provided remarks to the group encouraging all of us to learn the language as it is the key to understanding our heritage. Most of the presentation was in Irish; its rhythm, music, and beauty were outstanding. Seated next to Michael were two Kerry men: Muiris Bric from Na Gorta Dubha as well as Mossie Scanlon from Baile an Lochaiagh. Muiris now lives and works in New York and has published an Irish language autobiography dealing with his journey from Kerry to New York. Mossie Scanlon moved to Australia in 1980, is an accomplished sean-nos singer, and author of a recently published book about his life. In addition, he is a coordinator of Irish language groups in Australia. We were very fortunate to have these talented men attend our language day.

The day ended with participants singing songs, playing instruments, or re-



Below: Language teachers and students pause at lunch time. Above: Irish speakers, Mossie Scanlon, Michael Carney and Muiris Bric reminisce about life in Dingle.

Additional photos on page 4.

citing poetry. One of the poems quoted was from Ailbhe Ní Gharbhuigh's "When One Despairs". It is a poem about the plight of the Gaeilgeoir (Irish speaker) wondering if it is really worth the effort.

"Some days let's admit it I'll tire of rallying to her defense I'm weary of being rooted here by her bedside."

As I looked around the room at the end of a great day of Irish language, song, and story, the three Kerry men and all the other participants were surely rallying to the "language's defense" by investing the time and providing encouragement. Sharing what we know helps others learn more about themselves and their culture. Hope we will see you at next year's event.



Irish hear British government apology by Tom Moriarty

It was an extraordinary moment in Anglo-Irish relations when David Cameron, the recently elected British Prime Minister rose in the House of Commons and offered what the "New York Times" described as "an extraordinary apology" for the killing of nineteen unarmed demonstrators in Derry, Northern Ireland by British soldiers. He described the shooting as "unjustified and unjustifiable." Cameron was accepting the results of the Saville Inquiry into the events of Bloody Sunday. The Inquiry was commissioned by Prime Minister Tony Blair in 1998 as part of the negotiations which brought about the Good Friday Agreement.

It took twelve years to complete the Inquiry at a cost of \$280 million dollars.

In his statement, Cameron accepted the government's responsibility for the irresponsible conduct of its forces. For that conduct, he said, he was deeply sorry." In effect, he virtually endorsed the version of Bloody Sunday that the victims' families had held to for the past thirty-eight years, including the contention that none of the victims were carrying firearms. The Saville Inquiry, also nullified a widely dispute earlier report which had attempted to exonerate the British troops.

In Derry itself, thousands gathered at the site of the shooting and

cheered the Prime Minister's remarks. It was a bitter-sweet moment for the families of the victims of Bloody Sunday. However, several questions remain unanswered. For example, will the British soldiers and their commanders, who were responsible be prosecuted or will they be granted immunity?

Northern Irish politics remain volatile. Nevertheless, the hope is that the British Government's acceptance of the Saville Inquiry and the Prime Minister's apology for the injustices of Bloody Sunday will have a healing effect and will, in the long run, promote reconciliation in the politically divided land.

Life Stories project to begin in the fall by Mary Ellen O'Brien

The Irish Cultural Center at Elms College was established over ten years ago with the express intent of keeping Irish heritage and the Irish arts alive. In the intervening years, numerous events have been held and programs created that have been instrumental in attaining that goal. The board members of the Cultural Center, however continue to explore ways that the center can be of service to its members and the entire Irish community.

Beginning in the fall of this year we are hoping to initiate a project that will chronicle the Irish immigrant and Irish American stories of the many wonderful and unforgettable people that have made the history of the Irish in our area one that deserves to be recorded and preserved for future generations. We are sadly cognizant of the fact that the once large population of Irish immigrants in our area is rapidly decreasing and we do not want their history and our history to pass

with them.

Our hope is to establish an archive here at the Irish Cultural Center that will serve as a reference library for your children, grandchildren, and anyone else who would be interested in researching the history of the Irish in western Massachusetts. So please start to look for documents such as birth certificates, marriage licenses, baptismal records, passports, citizenship papers, etc. that you would be willing to send copies of or allow us to copy for you. We would also like the names of people who have immigrated or their children who would be willing to be interviewed.

As we continue to develop the outline for this project we will keep you updated via our newsletter. The success of this endeavor will depend on all of you who will be willing to provide us with the information we are seeking. Please consider being a part of this life stories project that will, hopefully, serve as an enduring tribute to all of those who have made the Irish American experience here in

western Massachusetts one that we can all be proud of.



Pictured above: Deirdre Ní Fhallúin delivers her talk on the Language Day; dancers are ready to follow directions at the workshop.

Learning Irish from a young teacher by Michael P. Conlin

I learned about Oideas Gael (Irish Education) in Donegal, Ireland several years ago from the “Daltai na Gaeilge” (Students of the Irish Language). This organization was begun about thirty years ago with the goal of keeping the Irish language alive and thriving via education, culture, and immersion studies. Oideas Gael is one of a handful of schools in the Gaeltacht regions in Ireland. These regions use the Irish language extensively in everyday life. Directional signs, town signs and places are written in the Irish.

Oideas Gael is a school that focuses on the Irish culture and language. I went specifically to improve my grasp of the language. It is located in Gleann Cholm Cille (The Glen of St. Colmcille) in Donegal. They offer several weekend and weeklong courses during the year. I went for two weeks in late March and early April of 2010, and spent five hours a day in classes. I was placed in level 3 (of 4) and found the classes very challenging.

My classmates hailed from Ireland, Scotland, England, Canada, Finland,

Sweden, Germany and the USA, and there was ample time for socializing over tea or Guinness.

After classes, there were a variety of activities offered. On any given evening there were programs (in Irish) on poetry, dancing, or ceo (music). Hikes in the local countryside led to dramatic oceanside cliffs and historic sites along St. Colmcille’s pilgrimage trail. Occasionally we would go to the local pub, which was frequented by some of the students and teachers, to enjoy the craic (talk), music, and of course a pint or two.

The music was very spontaneous. Musicians came with their instruments (fiddle, squeeze box, tin whistle, bodhran or voice) and the flowing harmonies filled the air for hours. It was magic.

A young gentleman came up to me one night about half way through my visit and asked if I was from the Chicopee area in Massachusetts. (I’m pretty sure it’s the only one in the country!) I told him that I have lived very close to Chicopee (Southampton) for over thirty years, and that I have been attending Irish

language classes at the Elms College for more than four years.

His name is Maitiú de Hál, from Donegal. He told me he had been accepted for a Fulbright scholarship to teach in Chicopee at the Elms starting August, 2010 for the school year. I was so happy to meet a native speaker who was coming to our neck of the woods - and was bowled over when I took my seat at class the next day and found out that he would be my teacher for the next week.

Maitiú proved to be an excellent instructor who took the time to get to know us as students. He worked with us in intense small study groups and gave us the individual time that we each needed. While the focus was conversation, he wove a textured course which incorporated Irish history, geography, music and more.

He will be a great addition to the faculty.

I felt that Oideas Gael was a highly rewarding experience.

Scones

2 c. flour
2 T. sugar
2 ½ t. baking powder
½ t. baking soda
1 t. salt
½ c. raisins
1 stick butter or oleo
1 c. buttermilk

Sift dry ingredients together. Blend in butter or oleo with blender or fork. Add raisins and buttermilk. Stir lightly just to blend.

Drop with large spoon on cookie sheet or ¾ fill muffin tins.

Bake at 425 degrees for 15 – 20 min.

Do not overbake. Should be lightly browned.

Beth Costello uses this recipe, given to her by Tess Collins, born in Killoeglin, Ireland and now living in Northampton, Massachusetts



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

ICC Calendar of events

Ongoing: Language groups meet weekly: Intro Irish 1 & 2, Intermediate 1 & 2, Irish Study Group. Classes offered each semester; call the Graduate Office at 265-2218.

Genealogy volunteer

Ed Callahan (413) 527-5091 email eastgram@aol.com

July 26-30, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Celtic Adventures for Kids summer camp

September 4-14 Journey of the Soul tour of Ireland

September 15, 22, 29, 7 p.m. fall film series, Alum Library Theater
See details on page 1

September 17-October 2
Exhibit at the Big E, WS

October 5, and 19 , 7 p.m.
Irish History Lecture series

October 24, 11 a.m.
Annual Brunch

December 4 Christmas with an Irish Touch

January 26, Feb 2, 9, 16, 7 p.m.
winter film series Alum Library Theater

March 6 Irish Ceili

Announcement: the ICC is in the process of investing some of the George Kennedy bequest money. If you have expertise in financial management and are willing to become involved, let us know.

EVENTS OF INTEREST

Check out the programs on these web sites.

AOH

www.AOH-Holyoke.com

John Boyle O'Reilly Club

www.jbo-club.com

Sons of Erin

www.sonsoferin.com

St. Patrick's Parade Committee

www.holyokestpatricksparade.com

The Irish Cultural Center now has an official page on Facebook. Stay up to date with the ICC's latest news and events. Become a fan today - just visit our page and click "like". Then spread the word to your friends! Find our page at: www.facebook.com/IrishCulturalCenter