



The Cairde Connection

“Keeping the Irish Arts Alive!”

Irish Cultural Center at
Elms College

Volume 11 & Issue 6

July 2011

College announces a second Irish Fulbright to teach the language

We are pleased that for the second year in a row a Fulbright Teacher will teach Irish language classes for the school year 2011-2012.

Padraic Deiseach will arrive from Ireland to the campus in late August; the Elms College classes begin September 7: the last class is December 16.

Deiseach will teach the three-credit course, Novice Irish I, offered on Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 11:30 a.m. to 12:20 p.m. To enroll, visit or call the registrar’s office at 413-265-2314. For people 65 or older, or those who wish to audit

the course, the cost is \$100, plus a \$20 registration fee.

On Wednesday evenings from 6:40-9:10 p.m. Padraic Deiseach will teach an Intermediate: Advanced Practice Irish Language course, also either for three credits or on a non-credit basis through the Continuing Education Office. Call 413-265-2218 to enroll.

This course is designed for students who have studied with Tom Moriarty and Chip Costello over the years, and who wish additional opportunities to practice and develop their ability in the language.

A non-credit Introductory Irish Lan-

guage course will meet for two hours on Tuesday evenings at 6:40 p.m. It is designed for those who wish to begin a study of the language.

The course will be taught by Professor Emeritus Tom Moriarty who has long been associated with the Irish Language program at the Irish Cultural Center. He will be assisted by Padraic Deiseach.

Sympathy

We extend our sympathy to Gay Reilly, her family and friends on the death of her husband Eddie Reilly.

Wine Tasting with an Irish Touch: A Success Story Socially and Financially by Kathleen Riordan

More than 100 members and friends of the Irish Cultural Center shared an evening of fine wines, Irish music, and a meal on Saturday, May 21 to support the Center’s emphasis on the study of Irish language and culture at the Elms College. This third annual event raised \$2500 to assist Elms Irish Studies students with study programs in Ireland; to contribute to the College’s Irish Fulbright Teaching

Assistant program; and to support other Irish language events at the College.

Gerald Costello emceed the program and began by thanking the Elms College for its support of the Irish Cultural Center and its work for eleven

years. Elms President Sr. Mary Reap, IHM, Ph.D. praised

the Center’s work to support Elms students and Irish language efforts. She spoke highly of the successful partnership between

(Continued on page 2)

Thanks to the sponsors of the wine event:

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Vinson Associates, Michael Bligh
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Pictured to the right: David Doe, Kathleen Doe and Chip Costello



Pictured to the left: Sarah Michel and Keith Avery

The Irish Cultural Center 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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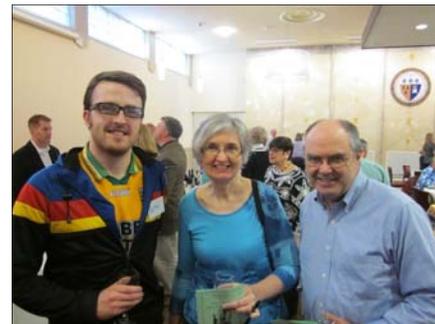
www.irish-cairde.org

Wine Tasting with an Irish Touch (continued)

the college and the Irish Center. Also addressing the group were Maitiú de Hál, the Irish Fulbright Teacher who has been teaching Irish language classes and organizing cultural events at the Elms for the 2010-11 academic year. Maitiú thanked the Elms College and the Irish Center for making this year a very successful one for him personally and professionally. Maitiú will return to Ireland this summer and plans to begin doctoral studies in the fall.

The success of the 2010-11 Fulbright program has led to the acceptance of the College's application for a second Irish Language Fulbright Teacher for the 2011-12 academic year. The teacher will continue the work begun by Maitiú and bring his own personal talents and interests to the program just as Maitiú de Hál did. An exciting year of Irish language courses and programs is planned and will be announced soon in our media releases, and on our website and Face book page.

Will Dziura, Elms 2011 graduate spoke of the value of his study in Galway in the summer of 2010 made possible in part by a grant from the Irish Center. Will has also served as



Maitiú de Hál poses with two attendees.

the Elms student liaison to the Irish Center Board.

In attendance were the three founders of the Irish Center: Sr. Kathleen Keating, SSJ, Ph.D., Past President of Elms College, Dr. Thomas Moriarty, Professor Emeritus of History at Elms College and Sean Cahillane, the son of Blasket Islands immigrants.

The event was made possible by a true partnership between the Irish Cultural Center, the Elms College, Jeff LeBlanc, Director of Aramark Food Services at the Elms, Jane Rosso (Elms '81) of Eddie's Fine Wines and Liquors in Springfield, and the local businesses and churches who sponsored the evening. The Irish Center thanks all who helped plan and sponsor the event and all who attended this evening of hospitality for a good cause.



Attendees listen to Maitiú de Hál as he thanks the college and the Irish Cultural Center for his experience here.

10-DAY SUMMER TOUR!

**“Emerald Isle Classic”
Notre Dame vs. Navy Game Tour
August 25-September 3, 2012**



The excitement is building! In 2012 the Irish Cultural Center will be heading off to the Emerald Isle for another grand 10-day tour, but this time we are offering a very rare opportunity to see the famed Notre Dame Fighting Irish play against the Naval Academy’s Midshipmen on Irish soil. This will be the second time in their 86-year history that the rivals have played in Ireland at the “Emerald Isle Classic”—the only other time they played in Ireland was in November of 1996! This time they will be playing on September 1, 2012, in the brand new state-of-the-art Aviva Stadium in Dublin. This incredible 410 Million Euro stadium, which opened on May 14, 2010 and built on the grounds of the old Lansdowne Road Stadium, is home to the Irish Rugby Union Team & National Soccer Team. The stadium has been described by Naval Athletic Director, Chet Gladchuk, as “one of the finest venues in the world... few stadiums anywhere have attended to the detail, aesthetics and fan comfort as in Aviva Stadium.” All 51,700 spectator seats are covered. A much more intimate stadium than what the teams usually play in that hold over 80,000 spectators.

Enjoy Ireland’s history, scenic beauty and rich cultural traditions—and witness a game of a lifetime! Built-in flexibility to explore on your own or to engage in other options such as golf, historic walking tours, harbor cruises, culinary delights (especially in Ireland’s Gourmet Capital-Kinsale), etc.

Visits/tours included:

Breathtaking Dingle Peninsula tour, Blarney Woolen Mills, Old Middleton/Jameson Distillery, 400 year old English Market in Cork City, Adare, the magnificent Gardens of Powerscourt in County Wicklow, Priority Tickets to the Notre Dame vs. Navy Game with box lunch, *and more!*

We’ve secured top-rated hotels in Ireland’s most sought after locations! This is truly a “Journey of the Soul Tour” (our 7th!) not to be missed! A once in a lifetime unforgettable experience!

The tour is well-rounded, with visits to some of Ireland’s most historic and romantic settings with multiple night stays for a more leisurely tour. Our hotels are in the colorful town of Dingle (2 nights), historic Kinsale (2 nights), medieval Kilkenny (1 night) and (3 nights) in the heart of Dublin’s fair city.

This is an exclusive, “one-of-a-kind” customized tour. Land cost is only \$2,049 pp/sharing room and includes hotels, transportation to and from the airport from Elms College as well as all transfers and touring in Ireland, 8 full Irish breakfasts, 3 table d’hôte dinners including a welcome drink the first night, plus 1 Farewell Dinner with Irish entertainment in County Meath, game ticket with boxed lunch, all hotel tips/taxes. Our special group airfare & departure tax is additional and will be available October 2011, 11-months prior to the tour.

A \$500 deposit per person will secure your spot. Optional travel protection (\$144). Space is limited to ONLY 45.

***DON’T BE DISAPPOINTED
RESERVE EARLY!***

For more information visit our website:
www.Irish-Cairde.org
Or call Kathy Gullivan at (413) 536-9709 or
E-mail: kgallivan04@gmail.com

HOTELS:

- Dingle Benners--Dingle
www.dinglebenners.com
- Carlton Hotel & Spa—Kinsale
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- River Court Hotel—Kilkenny
www.rivercourthotel.com
- Mont Clare Hotel—Dublin on Merrion Square
www.ocallaghanhotels.com

- Adare*Dingle*Blarney*Kinsale*
- *Cork City*Midleton*Kilkenny*
- *County Wicklow*Dublin*County Meath*

Trip to Great Hunger Exhibit moves and educates visitors

by Kathleen Riordan

On Saturday, June 11 thirty seven ICC members and friends travelled to Quinnipiac University in Hamden, CT for a guided tour of the An Gorta Mor (The Great Hunger) exhibit in the Arnold Bernhard Library. Thanks to the invitation by Dr. John Lahey, President of Quinnipiac, who spoke at the 2010 ICC brunch, we were hosted by Charles Getchell, Jr., Director of the library, and Dr. Janice Swiatek-Kelly, Associate Director.

The special collection is sponsored by the Lender family as a way to expand public awareness of this great tragedy in the history of the Irish people.

Assisted by the expertise of the two library professionals we saw the printed resources which include books, maps, and family letters. The collection also includes commissioned sculptures and paintings depicting the tragedy of the hunger, the deaths, the resulting departure of adults and chil-

dren, the coffin ships, and the arrival in America.

Between 1845 and 1850, more than a half million Irish men, women and children died of starvation and disease. Two million Irish citizens eventually fled the country, many by crowding themselves in "coffin ships," poorly fitted vessels from which large numbers of the sick and emaciated passengers would not leave alive. The famine situation was protracted by prejudice, ineptitude, and indifference. Some refer to this period as "the first genocide." Until recently this historical event was referred to as the Great Famine. Historians now name it the Great Hunger. The word famine implies that there is no food. That was not the case in Ireland. There was plenty of food as proven by the historical records showing the amounts of grain and animals being shipped from Ireland to England. Historians now tell us that Great Britain intentionally refused to make the

food supplies available to the Irish and to reverse their prejudicial economic policies.

The participants left the library with a fuller understanding of the Great Hunger and its implication on Ireland and Irish-Americans. We felt very fortunate to have had the opportunity to visit this collection with the professional guidance and personal enthusiasm shared by the two experts. The ICC is most grateful to Dr. Lahey for inviting us and for allowing his professional staff to make the visit such an outstanding learning experience.

Of great interest is the website which the staff is developing on the Great Hunger- www.TheGreatHunger.org.

The website is currently available and will be updated and improved regularly. Interested persons will find this of great value.

The day also included time at the Westfarms Mall for lunch and shopping time.

Ni Shúilleabháin brings history to life by Mary Ellen Lowney

Irish author and historian Brenda Ni Shúilleabháin brought her blend of folksy but meticulously detailed storytelling to the Elms College in May, drawing a crowd that more than filled the Alumni Library Theater.

Ni Shúilleabháin, a retired educator from Ventry, Co. Kerry, Ireland, who has found her life's passion in recording and writing stories about the aging Irish-speaking people whose memories reach well before the Irish Tiger, spoke for nearly two hours on May 11 at the event.

Ni Shúilleabháin is the author of "Bibeanna: Memories from a Corner of Ireland," the stories of Irish-speaking women from the Dingle Peninsula. The book was the subject of an award-winning series on Irish television, which she wrote and pro-

duced. Despite technical difficulties that muted the video portion of her presenta-

tion, Ni Shúilleabháin's stories were music to the ears of the masses. "I absolutely loved it, every word of it," Noreen Cavanagh Collins, whose own move from Ventry to Springfield in 1959 is chronicled in Ni Shúilleabháin's work.

"It was wonderful. I just love the old stories," Cavanagh Collins added. Ni Shúilleabháin managed to work around the technical problems, sharing lifestyles old and new that



spanned the two countries. Her photographs and videos, both past and present, made for a lively backdrop on the big screen behind her.

The highlight of her talk included details of her new documentary, "Irish Women at Home and Away," stories from women who left the Dingle area years ago, and made their lives in places like Springfield, Boston, Hartford and New York.

She spoke of women who left home, often younger than 16, with no English and little education or the urban skills they would need to assimilate. Here in the United States, they established Irish communities where they found support, friendship and often, love.

Many of those same immigrants settled in the Western Massachusetts area, *(Continued on page 6)*

Diverse events bring together Irish enthusiasts through the year

Special events

- Big E exhibit
- Brunch at Yankee Pedlar with lecture “The Irish Famine” by John Lahey
- Christmas with an Irish Touch: Dan Kane and friends concert followed by Liturgy
- Irish Ceili at Sons of Erin, Westfield with Leo Doherty and Paul Grzebieniowski providing the music and Mary Ellen O’Brien leading the dancing
- Irish Concert organized by Maitiú de Hál, Fulbright Teacher: Kiltie Band; Jonathan Kennedy, Amanda Bernhard, Maitiú de Hál; Tim Donoghue, Bill Dempsey, Sean Burke



Just for children

Celtic Adventures for Kids

Travel

- Journey of the Soul tour of Ireland
- Mary Black concert at UMass
- Great Hunger exhibit at Quinnipiac University



Films

Waverider, Leap Year, The Yellow Bittern: the Life and Times of Liam Clancy
Five Minutes of Heaven, Ondine,
The Race, The Fight Prince of Donegal

Fundraising event

Wine Tasting with an Irish Accent



Language

- Introduction to Irish, Intermediate and Advanced Practice each semester taught by Fulbright teacher Maitiú de Hál
- La na Gaeilge day-long workshop



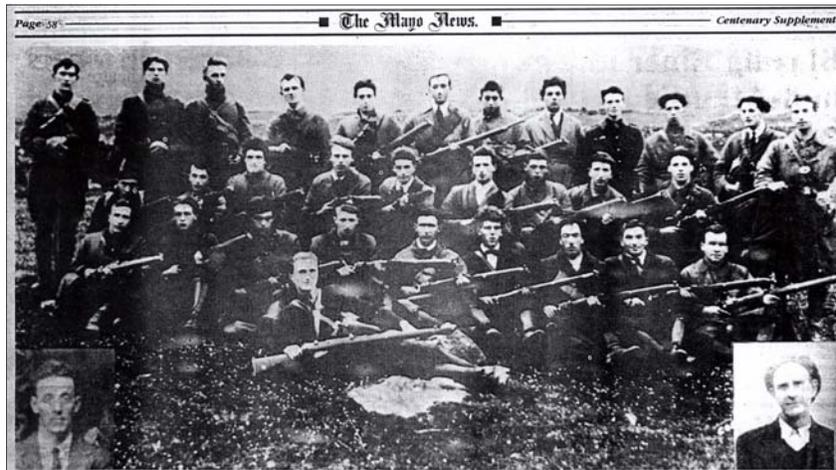
Lectures and book readings

- Life and Times of Michael Collins: an Irish Patriot by William Matthews
- To Dakota and Back: the Story of an Orphan Train Rider by Judith Kappenman
- Documentary: The Boys of St. Columb’s by Maurice Fitzpatrick
- St. Brigid’s Night, talk and cross making with Maitiú de Hál, Fulbright Teacher
- Documentary: Seven Shades of Green with Justin Bell
- Documentary: Irish Woman at Home and Away and Dunquin 40 years with Brenda Ní Shuilleabháin

A piece of history in a picture By Rosemary Foley

I have a picture that I treasure. It is of The West Mayo Brigade of the old IRA, taken at the foot of the Nephin Mountains in Northwest Mayo, during the War of Independence. My uncle, Patrick McNamara, is in the picture and it hangs proudly in my home; family members have copies. Pat was jailed in the Currach of Kildare prison after which he went to live in the United States. He came to Clinton, Massachusetts and on to New York City where he resided until he died in 1982. We brought him back to Ireland and he received a beautiful Military type funeral, much of which was said in Irish.

I found my original hanging in the bedroom of my uncle Joe's house in Carramore, Louisburgh, Co. Mayo, in 1974. Joe had died and we went back to bury him and I brought the picture home with me. The original was done by a photographer from Claremorris; at the time the men were "on the run." I have since seen



the picture on the cover of a Clancy Brothers LP cover, entitled "The Men of the West" and two years ago in Shotgun News (an American publication) in a two-part article entitled, "Guns of the Irish Wars."

Each year, I bring the picture to our local Hibernian Center, in Worcester, when we commemorate the War for Independence. My family and I are very proud of our uncle. Pat McNamara was a very proud Irishman and he instilled this pride in

his nieces and nephews, letting us know how hard men fought for freedom.

So that is my treasure.

Family treasures

Two of our readers share stories of their family heritage in this edition of the newsletter. We welcome stories from our members and will publish additional submissions in future editions.

Ni Shúilleabháin (continued from page 4)

and it is their children and grandchildren who make up the backbone of the Irish Cultural Center.

Ni Shúilleabháin said they were a remarkable bunch of people. "They worked hard. Truly hard. They raised families, in the traditional way, with love, authority, and ambition. They were determined to educate their children to enable them to have better lives than their own," she said. "This goes a long way towards explaining the fact that women of Irish descent are the most prosperous and upwardly mobile in the United States. And they are fiercely proud of America," she added.

Ni Shúilleabháin told the story of one

of her subjects who told her, "I have two birthdays. June 30 1929 and May 12 1948."

"That was the day she came to America. This pride is independent of politics. It is a pride in what the American dream has brought to reality for them: comfortable homes, loving families, caring communities. There is in this no conflict with their love for Ireland," she said. ICC board member Kathleen Riordan attended the event, and said she was moved by the presentation. "My grandfather came from Dunquin and my grandmother came from the Blasket Island, so I was very interested in the background knowledge

which Brenda O'Sullivan shared with us," Riordan said.

"Her speaking style is conversational and very engaging. She draws the listeners into the narrative. Her sense of humor kept the presentation lively and entertaining as well," she said. One of Ni Shúilleabháin's recent projects was the film "Dunquin - Forty Years," a film double - she collaborated with Professor Paul Hockings, who in 1967 made a film on Dunquin called "The Village." The result is a fascinating showing of how the most westerly parish in Ireland was in 1967 and how it is today.

Ni Shúilleabháin's current project is called 'Men of Ventry.'

Learning the Irish language and all things Irish

By Crystalline Ruby Muse

With my whole being I wish to learn to communicate fluently in Gaeilge, the Irish language. Keeping Irish culture alive and flourishing is part of my life's mission. Learning the language and being able to communicate with native speakers in the Gaeltacht regions of Ireland is essential to this mission.

I have been an active participant in Irish cultural events since I was a teenager. I do have Irish ancestry on both sides of my parental lineage. However, this is not the only reason for my interest. My love affair began with music. I grew up playing the violin, studying with private teachers and performing with my father, a professional musician.

When I was thirteen, I discovered Celtic music and fell head-over-heels, particularly with Irish dance tunes and ballads. I turned my studies on the fiddle in this direction and began to learn of sean-nós singing as well.

As a young adult, I traveled to various Celtic music gatherings and studied the fiddle with renowned players such as Brian Conway, Liz Carroll and Kevin Burke, as well as learning the Irish whistle and beginning to study the harp and bódhran. I lived in

Minneapolis for fifteen years, and I participated in and performed at céilí dances; attended Minnesotans for United Ireland gatherings; enjoyed the séisiún scene; and became a cultural teacher for the European-American branch of the Phillips-Powderhorn Cultural Wellness Center where I taught Irish culture. I co-founded a now 12-year-old annual Irish festival in Minneapolis, the Féile Bhríde, and eventually a cultural school, The Tree and the Well Institute for Deep Cultural studies. The school had Celtic Studies as one its major branches.

I read Alexei Kondratiev's writings about the importance of the language to cultural survival. I committed to learning Irish and began study at Gaeltacht Minnesota in the fall of 2007.

I left Minnesota six months later, but continued to study on my own. At last in 2010, I discovered a study group that met bimonthly in Asheville, North Carolina. I was living in Marshall and so made the half-hour trek twice a month to support my studies. I continued to learn Irish ballads in Gaeilge, studying with Dáithí Sproule and Cathy Ryan. I continued

to perform songs in the language and teach classes like Celtic Tree Lore, in which part of the curriculum is learning the trees' names and other key works and phrases in Irish.

Finally, for many reasons, including the sparse Irish culture there, my husband and I decided to relocate to Western Massachusetts, settling near family here. My husband grew up in this area and we were excited about the opportunity to live not too far from the ICC, especially since I began to entertain the notion of going back to school in Irish Studies.

I would like to take the Irish classes offered at Elms College to use this knowledge in a number of ways. I would use it in my performing of Irish music and teaching of Irish culture. I would use it to learn from Irish-speaking elders in Ireland.

I would share my learning in writings used to promote Irish culture in the United States and Ireland. I would teach the language and speak it all opportunities, helping it to grow and spread. And I would raise my children to speak Irish with the understanding that Ireland is our sacred homeland and the Irish culture a treasure to cultivate and strengthen.

A fair trade By Ellen Ezold

The crystal cruet holding a place of honor in my china cabinet was handed down from my great grandmother Ella Ni Gaughan to my grandmother Ella Ni Barrett to my mother Eleanor Ni Lawler, and to me Ellen Ni Moriarty.

It has the weight and craftsmanship of very old Waterford. It stands about five inches high including the pyramid-shaped clear glass stopper and is divided into many inch sized planes with floral designs. Its true value was a

comfort to Ellen Barrett whose journey to America in 1872 was, to say the least, not her plan for the future. Not long before their departure (but long enough for "Irish twins" Sarah and Kate to be born) my great grandfather Thomas Barrett had purchased the Gaughan's farm in Belmullet, Mayo. Thomas, a Kerryman nearly middle aged, had never traveled that far north before. It soon became apparent that he had an allergy to the Mayo hay. Consequently, he made a

deal with the Gaughans, trading back the farm and taking 16-year-old Ellen instead. Her mother Bridget Ni Manning gave her the crystal cruet before they sailed away as a link to Ireland and to home. The first Ellen carried it to Ohio, then to Lancaster, Pennsylvania where my grandmother was born, and finally to the farm the Barretts built on Center Street, in Holyoke, Massachusetts.

And the crystal cruet has remained a link between the Ellens for all these years.

**Irish Cultural Center
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ICC Calendar of events

Ongoing: Language Classes offered each semester; call the Registrar at 413-265-2314 or Continuing Ed Office at 413-265-2218.

Genealogy volunteer
Ed Callahan 413-527-5091 or email eastgram@aol.com

July 25-29
Celtic Adventures for Kids

September 3-13
Journey of the Soul Trip to Ireland

September 15-October 2
Big E exhibit

September/October
Photography exhibit in Borgia Gallery, Mary Dooley Campus Center "To Love Two Countries." Opening reception September 29

November 2
Dramatic recital "J.M. Synge: The Aran Islands"

December 3
Christmas with an Irish Touch

The events committee is working on additional programs and events for the fall. We will post information on our web site when finalized.

August 25-Sept. 3, 2012
"2012 10-Day Ireland Notre-Dame/



Congratulations to Congressman Richard Neal who recently received the Peace Builder Award marking the Irish Echo Index 30. Neal is currently Irish Echo's Irish American of the Year.

For information on our partner Irish organizations, 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