



After an extensive international search, Boston College is delighted to announce that Breen Ó Conchubhair and Ann Morrison Spinney will be joining Irish Studies this fall. Breen has been teaching Irish at the University of Notre Dame in South Bend, Indiana. His coming to BC greatly enhances the Irish language and literature offerings, enriching both the undergraduate and graduate programs. He will also be working with the Irish collection at the Burns Library where he will help catalogue the papers of Flann O'Brien and Nuala Ní Dhomhnaill and the holdings of rare Irish manuscripts. He is currently working on a book project that explores the Irish language and literary revival of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Breen received his doctorate from the National University of Ireland, Galway, writing a dissertation that explored the internal origins and external stimulus for the Gaelic Revival and its European dimensions. His publications include *Irish!* (1999) and articles on fiction in Irish in *Irish-Australian Studies*, *Irish University Review*,

*Irisleabhar Mhá Nuad*, and *New Hibernia Review*.

Ethnomusicologist Ann Morrison Spinney will also be joining Irish Studies in the fall, taking part in a program that has a rich and diverse musical tradition. Her research interests include the exchange between England, Scotland, and Ireland in the ballad tradition, and the development of contemporary music forms including trans-Atlantic "Celtic punk." Ann will teach a variety of Irish music courses, will work with Séamus Connolly, the director of the Irish Studies Music Program, and will collaborate with other faculty to bring music into the classroom as an academic discipline. Ann's presence will also enhance the rich offerings Irish Studies has in performance courses, which include fiddle, flute, and dance. Having published several ethnomusicological studies on Native American peoples of the Northeast, Ann is also interested in the parallels between English percep-



# Stranger Than Fiction

The Boston College Irish Studies program has always had a strong interest in Irish feature and documentary film. Over the past four years the Irish Studies Film Series has screened dozens of films, many of which received their American premiere as part of the series. During this time we have been very fortunate to have the help of the Irish Film Institute, which has provided tremendous logistical and moral support.

Although the number of Irish films that have received a cinema release has risen slowly over the last few years, there are still many that will never be seen in the United States. This year we are pleased to announce that we will collaborate with the Irish Film Institute as part of its innovative **Stranger Than Fiction** series. This film festival, curated by Gráinne Humphreys, features a selection of contemporary international documentary films that are shown at the Irish Film Center in Dublin. This year an audience poll will be conducted and the Best Irish Documentary will be chosen. The film and its filmmaker will travel to Boston College; the film will be screened at the Chestnut Hill campus as part of the Irish Studies fall program. Please watch our Web site for details.

## Michael Cronin Named Irish Studies Research Fellow

Michael Cronin, senior research fellow in History at De Montfort University, Leicester, will be the fall Irish Studies Research Fellow. Professor Cronin will make use of Boston College's Special Irish Collection at the Burns Library and the serials at the O'Neill Library to work on a manuscript of his current research project, **Ireland's Image: State Formation and Projection, 1922-66**. Events of this period that he is particularly interested in are: Aonach Tailteann in 1924, 1928, and 1932; the Eucharistic Congress of 1932; Ireland's participation at the 1939 New York World's Fair; the An Tostal gatherings of the mid-1950s; and the fiftieth anniversary of the 1916 Rising. His research of this period will also take into account President Kennedy's historic visit to Ireland. The collections of the Kennedy Library and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Archives include materials that will aid this research. Michael Cronin's publications include **A History of Ireland** (Palgrave, 2001), **Sport and Nationalism in Ireland: Gaelic Games, Soccer and Identity Since 1884** (Dublin: Four Courts Press, 1999), and **The Blueshirts and Irish Politics** (Dublin: Four Courts Press, 1997). Michael will speak in the lecture series "Ireland Before the Republic: Politics and Culture, 1922-1949." This series will feature members of the Irish Studies faculty and a number of guests including Alvin Jackson of Queens University, Belfast, and Angela Bourke and Mary Daly from University College, Dublin. The fall lecture schedule is in this newsletter; please see our Web site for full details.

2003

September 8

Seminar: David Roediger and Jim Barret, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign. **Irish Everywhere: Irish Americans and the 'Americanization' of the 'New Immigrants,' 1900-1930** (co-sponsored with Department of History), Connolly House, 4:00 p.m.

September 16

Alvin Jackson, Queens University, Belfast. **Irish Home Rule, 1900-2000**,

Revised Edition, Dublin: SIRO, 2001. ISBN 0 03 00 000 0

## 2003

What language did the actor Colin Farrell speak when introducing U2 at the Oscars? What language did Enya (Eithne Ní Bhraonáin) speak on receiving her Grammy and Golden Globe? This communication-based course provides an introduction to the Modern Irish language. Students will acquire conversational, compositional, and grammatical skills, in addition to cultural knowledge about Ireland and the Irish language. **Breen Ó Conchubhair.**

A survey of the medieval heroic literature of Ireland and Wales. Emphasis will be on the prose tales of the Irish Ulster and Fenian Cycles and of the Welsh Mabinogi and related tales. The Welsh heroic poetry of Aneirin and Taliesin will also be read. **Philip O'Leary.**

This course will survey nineteenth-century Irish literature written in English, including fiction, poetry, and drama, and will introduce students to the various histories — literary, social, and political, Irish, English, Continental, and American — that shaped that literature. **Marjorie Howes.**

One semester. One class. One hugely important book. This course will be dedicated to an extended exploration of James Joyce's *Ulysses*, a novel that has often been called the most important literary work of the twentieth century. **Marjorie Howes.**

This seminar spans the major cultural and historical moments and surveys the associated literary production connecting these experiences: the Norman invasion, the Elizabethan and Jacobean plantations, the emergence of an Anglo-Irish identity, the cultural nationalist response to imperialism, the ongoing decolonizing process, and the emergence of a post-colonial liberated society. **James Smith.**

This course is a survey of Irish poetry since the death of W.B. Yeats in 1939. Among topics to be discussed will be the influence of Yeats on subsequent Irish poets, the emergence of a distinctly postcolonial voice on both sides of the border between North and South, and, more specifically, the interaction between poetry and politics in the North of Ireland over the past three decades. **Philip O'Leary.**

This course will explore present-day Ireland by considering the complex political and cul-

tural change that has taken place in Ireland since 1960. We will address the modernization of Irish society, the impact of 'The Troubles' on Irish life, economic development and the impact of the 'Celtic tiger,' the scandals that have undermined the Catholic Church, and the worldwide popularity of Irish drama and film. **Robert Savage.**

This course will examine the evolution and transformation of the Anglo-Irish relationship from the outbreak of World War II, when Ireland declared itself a neutral, to the establishment of the Irish Republic in 1949. **Thomas Hachey.**

This course will explore the political, cultural, and social history of Ireland in the twentieth century. Topics covered will include the Gaelic and literary revival, women's suffrage, the struggle for independence, civil war, and the partition of the island. **Thomas Hachey.**

Between 1700 and 1855, 3.5 million Irish people crossed the Atlantic to settle in North America. This vast movement was of great historical significance on both sides of the Atlantic: it played a fundamental role in the shaping of modern Ireland, and it determined the economic, political, and cultural development of the United States. The course will examine the history of this migration in terms of the social, economic, political, and cultural history of Ireland and the United States. **Kevin Kenny.**

An outstanding characteristic of emigration from Ireland to North America was the large number of women in the emigration stream. This seminar course will be an examination of Irish women and emigration beginning with study of conditions in Ireland that resulted in women leaving in such large numbers. Following that will be an examination of their experience as immigrants in North America. **Ruth-Ann Harris.**

This colloquium will allow for a close reading of some of the more recent monographs that have been published. **Robert Savage.**

World-renowned Irish dance instructor and choreographer Michael Smith will offer Irish dance classes focusing on the traditional céilí dances of Ireland. Emphasis on the basic steps needed to execute céilí dances and demonstration of couple dancing will be the primary concentration of this class. No prior experience necessary in the beginner class. **Michael Smith.**

A study of traditional Irish fiddle music incorporating styles, technique, bowings, fingerings, and ornamentation. Learn to read and play the airs and dance music of Ireland along with the music of seventeenth- and eighteenth-century Ireland, and that of the ancient Bardic harpers and court musicians. **Laurel Martin.**

Learn to play the tin whistle. No prior experience required. Learn to read and play the airs and dance music of Ireland. Classes are taught at beginner and intermediate levels by Jimmy Noonan, a well-known Irish tin whistle and flute player and teacher. **Jimmy Noonan.**

An introduction to Irish music from two perspectives: a historical examination of the music and its indigenous instruments, and a close study of contemporary developments arising from the folk music revival of the 1960s, particularly in relation to ensemble performance. Both dance music and the vocal tradition will be surveyed, with an emphasis on the former. **Ann Morrison Spinney.**



Thomas E. Hachey was named Boston College University Professor in April 2003. He was also named the 2003 recipient of the Roger McHugh Award for an article entitled "The Rhetoric and Reality of Irish Neutrality," which appeared in *Journal of American Studies*, winter 2002.

## Dalsimer Fellowship Awarded

For the fourth year, Boston College has awarded the Adele Dalsimer Dissertation Fellowship in memory of the co-founder of Boston College's Irish Studies program. In the spirit of Professor Dalsimer's dedication to graduate students, particularly during the challenging dissertation process, this one-year fellowship is offered to a student who demonstrates an awareness of Professor Dalsimer's vision and energy. This year's recipient is Richard Murphy. Rich's dissertation is a project examining the *Bildungsroman* in twentieth-century Irish literature as the phantom ideal against which both realist and modernist Irish fictions negotiate their relation to genre and construct the self through experiences of exile and the foreign.

## Rob Savage Named Galway Visiting Professor

In April an adjudicating committee appointed by the Irish-American Cultural Institute and the National University of Ireland, Galway selected Robert Savage as the IACI Visiting Fellow in Irish Studies at the National University Ireland, Galway. Rob is currently researching a political and social history of Ireland in the 1960s that focuses on the development of Radió Telefís Éireann (RTÉ), Ireland's national television service. This research examines how television challenged both church and state and acted as an agent of modernization during a decade of rapid economic, cultural, and political change. Being based in Ireland will provide him access to research materials that are critical to the project at RTÉ, the Dublin Archdiocese, and the National Archives. The fellowship is granted annually to an Irish studies scholar, typically a resident of the United States, and provides visiting faculty status at the National University of Ireland, Galway, including office accommodation. He will take up residence at the National University of Ireland, Galway in January 2004.

## Nadia Smith Awarded Government of Ireland Post-Doctoral Fellowship

Nadia Smith (PhD 2003) was awarded the Government of Ireland Post-Doctoral Fellowship for 2003-2004. St. Patrick's College, which is part of Dublin City University, will host the fellowship. Nadia defended her dissertation entitled *A 'Manly Study'? Irish Women Historians as Public Intellectuals, 1868-1949*, in the spring of this year. Her research interests include modern Irish social, cultural, and women's history, as well as historiography. She has presented papers at conferences in Boston, Liverpool, Aberdeen, and Chicago. The fellowship

Chair: Irish Political Controversies  
American Conference for Irish Studies,  
University of St. Thomas, June 2003.

"American Participation in the Peace  
Process," Belfast, February 23, 2003.

"Irish Neutrality: Political Stratagem or  
National Icon?" Department of Celtic  
Studies, Harvard University, March 11,  
2003.

"Civil War Soldier Christopher Byrne in  
Minnesota Writes to His Brother Patrick,  
the Harper." American Conference for  
Irish Studies, University of St. Thomas,  
June 2003.

"Women Writers and the Irish Atlantic,"  
Boston College Gaelic Roots, June 2003.

"Didactic Catholic Fiction in Late 19th  
Century America," Irish Catholics: Belief,  
Practice and Representation, Ireland and  
America, 1776-2002, University of Notre  
Dame, February 2003.

"Bodies in Motion: Sexuality, Migration,  
and Labor," Notre Dame Irish Seminar,  
July 2003.

"Last Poems," Yeats International Sum-  
mer School, Sligo, Ireland, August 2003.

"Diaspora and Comparison: The Global  
Irish as a Case Study," *Journal of Ameri-  
can History* (June 2003).

Review: *The Irish Times*, July 5, 2003, on  
*Unfinished Business: Essays on Hubert  
Butler*, ed. Chris Agee.

Vera Kreilkamp, Robert Savage, and  
Katherine Nahum presented a roundtable  
titled: "An Interdisciplinary Project in  
Irish Studies: *Éire/Land* Catalogue, Exhi-  
bition, and Course," American Confer-  
ence for Irish Studies, University of St.  
Thomas, June 2003.

Chair: Eilís Ní Dhuibhne, American Con-  
ference for Irish Studies, University of St.  
Thomas, June 2003.

"The Origins of a State-Inscribed Con-  
tainment Culture: The Criminal Law  
Amendment Act (1935) and the Carrigan  
Commission (1931)," American Confer-  
ence for Irish Studies, University of St.  
Thomas, June 2003.

"'If that is not Irish': Conflicting Identities in Elizabeth Gaskell's North and South," Society for the Study of Nineteenth-Century Ireland, Queens University, Belfast, June 21, 2003.

"Agroecology and Agroforestry," "The British Empire," and "Gilbert White" in

provides funding and an institutional base with office space which will allow Nadia to complete her research. Nadia is writing a biography of Dorothy Macardle that has been commissioned by Cork University Press as part of their Radical Irish Lives series.

## Kevin Kenny Promoted

The University recently announced that Kevin Kenny has been promoted to the rank of professor in the department of history. Professor Kenny's publications include *Making Sense of the Molly Maguires* (1998) and *The American Irish: A History* (2000). He is currently researching the history of popular protest movements in eighteenth-century Ireland and America and editing a collection of historical essays, *Ireland and the British Empire*, for Oxford University Press.

