

# ACIS NEWSLETTER

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## **ACIS ANNUAL CONFERENCE:**

The next ACIS annual conference will be hosted at the University of Liverpool by the Institute of Irish Studies and its Director, Marianne Elliott. The dates of the conference are July 12-16, 2004. The university is situated in the center of a city with great historical links to Irish culture, and the Institute, founded in 1988, is unique as the national center for the study of Ireland in Britain. Liverpool has been nominated as a future European City of culture, and many of its institutions, such as the Maritime Museum and the Everyman Theatre, will be developing new programs and activities available for our visit. A broad range of housing options from university accommodations to nearby hotels will be available. The conference, opening with a reception on Monday, July 12 and closing with a banquet on Friday, July 16, will allow time for field trips in the city and the region.

In keeping with the international setting, and at the invitation of the Institute, ACIS has extended its invitation and call for papers to the British Association for Irish Studies, the Canadian Association for Irish Studies, and the European Federation of Associations and Centres of Irish Studies. A program of nearly 300 papers has been assembled from four continents.

Authors of accepted papers will receive separate information about conference planning. In addition, full information on program, registration, housing options, and local information will be available March 1 at the websites of the ACIS:

<<http://www.acisweb.com/data/announce.php>> and the Institute of Irish Studies website:

<<http://www.liverpool.ac.uk/irish>>.

## **ACIS WEBSITE UPDATE:**

Over the winter holiday, the ACIS web site <[www.acisweb.com](http://www.acisweb.com)> was updated with a new look and a dynamic, database-driven architecture. ACIS members can now post CFPs and Announcements directly to the site, and can also maintain and update their membership records.

In order to access the “Member’s Only” section of the site, members must first register a user ID with the database. The registration process involves entering an email address, which is then looked up in the database. If the email address is found, the system sends an email to the member with a temporary password. The user can then login and change his or her password, update address and contact information, enter a “Member Profile, and check on the status of membership.

If the email address is not found, it is more than likely the result of out of date information in the database. In this case the user must contact the site administrator and provide him with an active email account. He can then update the record so that the registration process will succeed.

All of the password information sent and received is encrypted for security and to protect you from getting unsolicited email SPAM. The records in the database are private by default, but members may elect to have certain member information made public. Such information might include information about a member’s research interests, links to a member’s personal web site, and a brief member profile. Visitors to the site can search the public records by name, affiliation, or research interest.

Look for ongoing modifications to the site in the coming year as new features are added. If there is something you would like to see added to the site, contact the site administrator, Matthew Jockers at <[mjockers@stanford.edu](mailto:mjockers@stanford.edu)>.

## **CALLS FOR PAPERS/CONFERENCES:**

### ***ACIS at MLA 2004***

The American Conference for Irish Studies will sponsor two sessions at the 2004 MLA Convention in Philadelphia. Session One: Irish Writing and the Public Sphere. Session Two: Ourselves Alone? Irish Geographies of Difference. Please submit abstracts or completed papers to: Prof. José Laners, English Department, University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee, WI 53201, or electronically to: <laners@uwm.edu>. Deadline: March 15, 2004. Papers should be no more than 15 minutes in length. Presenters must be members of both organizations.

### ***Recontextualizing Edna O'Brien Panel, IASIL Annual Conference, NUI, Galway, July 20 - 24, 2004.***

We are seeking papers that reconsider O'Brien's place in the canon, her work's participation in literary traditions, its interactions with contemporary fiction, its response to and presence in the work of other writers. We see this panel as a forerunner to the forthcoming conference on Edna O'Brien's work (Edna O'Brien: A Reappraisal, October 2004), in which we hope to elicit new readings that complement and add to existing criticism. Please send 250-word proposals for fifteen- to twenty-minute papers to Kathy Laing <klaing@indigo.ie>, Sinead Mooney <sinead.mooney@nuigalway.ie> or Maureen O'Connor <maureen.oconnor@nuigalway.ie> by April 15, 2004. You must be a member of IASIL by March 1, 2004.

### ***Modern Ireland: Her Arts and Culture. American Conference for Irish Studies/West 20th Anniversary Conference, Greeley, Colorado, October 1 - 3, 2004***

The 20th Anniversary Conference of the American Conference for Irish Studies/West will be hosted by the University of Northern Colorado, Greeley, Colorado. Conference events will include a poetry reading by Nualla Ní Dhomhnaill, the Art of Alice Maher in the Marianni Gallery, a lecture by Alice Maher on contemporary Irish art, a theatre performance, an interpretative dance performance, and more.

Proposals for 20-minute papers are invited on any topic of interest to Irish Studies. Considerations of Modern Irish Arts and Culture (from the perspective of history, economics, science, literature, the visual and performing arts, sociology, political science, or gender studies) are particularly welcome. Send abstracts of no more than 300 words to Susan Smallwood Herold, Department of Visual Arts, University of Northern Colorado, Box 30, Greeley, Colorado 80639 or <sherold@arts.unco.edu>. Deadline: June 25th, 2004.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

### ***National University of Ireland 56th International Summer School June 30<sup>th</sup> - July 16th.***

The 2004 UCD International Summer School continues the tradition, established more than half a century ago, of exploring aspects of Irish life, culture and history, with guidance from the university's internationally-renowned faculty members.

This year's program, "Performing Ireland, Representing Ireland, Irish Art, Culture, History through the Ages," celebrates two major centenaries in Irish cultural history--Bloomsday and the opening of the Abbey Theatre--with an exploration of Ireland and Irishness as performed and represented through the ages. Historians, artists, and literary

and cultural critics will pry open the visual arts, music, literature, architecture and theatre to reveal the complexities of "Irishness," north and south, ancient and modern. Artist-led workshops will be a feature of the program.

In keeping with long-established Summer School practice, the program will also include substantial debate on the development of modern Ireland, on modern Irish politics, and on Ireland's place within the modern world, a series of field trips to places of cultural and historical interest in Ireland, and introductory Irish-speaking classes.

The course fee is €695 with a €60 reduction for students; a small number of scholarships is also available. The course fee combined with a self-catering campus accommodation is €1095. For a brochure please contact: International Summer School, UCD, Newman House, 86 St Stephen's Green, Dublin 2, Tel: +353-1-4752004, Fax: +353-1-7167211 <summer.school@ucd.ie>.

### ***Liverpool Irish Studies Scholarship Programme.***

The Institute of Irish Studies at The University of Liverpool is pleased to announce a new scholarship opportunity for students from the United States and Canada. One undergraduate scholarship, worth £2,000 per year and tenable for up to three years is available for a new undergraduate student joining the Institute's full time three year BA in Irish Studies program in September 2004. Two scholarships, worth £1,500 each (or £750 for one semester), are available to students joining the Institute in 2004/5 on a one semester or two semester study abroad basis. Scholarships will be awarded on the basis of academic excellence.

The University's Institute of Irish Studies has national and international acclaim as a top-rated teaching and research Institute. Initial enquiries about this scholarship programme should be made to: Ms. Linda Christiansen, Administrator, The Institute of Irish Studies, The University of Liverpool, 1 Abercromby Square, Liverpool L69 7WY, Tel: 44 (0) 151 794-3831, Fax: 44 (0) 151 794-3836, <l.m.Christiansen@liv.ac.uk>.

### ***The Eighth Annual Trieste Joyce School, June 27 - July 3, 2004, University of Trieste.***

Trieste Joyce School, Dipartimento di letteratura e civiltà anglo-germaniche, University of Trieste, via Lazzaretto vecchio 8, 34137 Trieste, Italy. Director: Renzo S. Crivelli. Program Director: John McCourt <mccourt@units.it> Fax: 39040 5587247 <www.univ.trieste.it/nirdange/school/>.

Speakers include: Derek Attridge (University of York), Jacques Aubert (Université Lumière-Lyon 2), Rosa Maria Bosinelli (University of Bologna), Richard Brown (University of Leeds), Eric Bulson (Columbia University), Renzo S. Crivelli (University of Trieste), Jin Di (University of Washington), Ron Ewart (University of San Gallen), Roy Foster (University of Oxford), John Wilson Foster (University of British Columbia), Lia Guerra (University of Pavia), Jennifer Johnston (Derry), Stefano Manferlotti (University of Napoli, Federico II), Katy Mullin (University of Leeds), John McCourt (University of Trieste), Erik Schneider (Trieste Joyce Museum), and Fritz Senn (Zurich James Joyce Foundation).

### ***New Funding for Postgraduate Study at Queen's University Belfast.***

Ten international studentships for MA courses in the Faculty of Humanities (including the MA in Irish Studies)

will be awarded for 2004-5. These studentships comprise full fees and £5,250 maintenance. The application deadline is April 30, 2004. For further details, visit <[www.qub.ac.uk/pao/](http://www.qub.ac.uk/pao/)>. For further information, please contact Catherine Boone, Administrator, Institute of Irish Studies, Queen's University Belfast, Belfast, BT7 1NN, Northern Ireland, Tel: +44 (0) 28 9097 3386, Fax: 44 (0) 28 9043 9238 <[irish.studies@qub.ac.uk](mailto:irish.studies@qub.ac.uk)> <[www.qub.ac.uk/iis](http://www.qub.ac.uk/iis)>

**"Narrative and Nationhood: Re-presenting Ireland." An Interdisciplinary Seminar.**

Seminar series begins on Monday, February 16th. A full program can be seen at:

<[www.qub.ac.uk/iis/news/events.htm](http://www.qub.ac.uk/iis/news/events.htm)>. For further information on any of the programs, please contact: Catherine Boone, Administrator, Institute of Irish Studies, Queen's University Belfast, Belfast, BT7 1NN, Northern Ireland, Tel: +44 (0) 28 9097 3386, Fax: 44 (0) 28 9043 9238 <[irish.studies@qub.ac.uk](mailto:irish.studies@qub.ac.uk)> <[www.qub.ac.uk/iis](http://www.qub.ac.uk/iis)>.

**"Seachtain na Gaeilge" (Irish Language Week) at CUNY from March 10, 2004 to March 17, 2004.**

The Irish Studies Program at Queens College, CUNY, and the Foreign Language Education Program at Lehman College, CUNY, in cooperation with the CUNY Institute for Irish American Studies invite all interested to join in celebrating "Seachtain na Gaeilge." Lehman College will host a lecture entitled "Irish Language Textbooks Published in NYC and Boston between 1873-1904" by Prof. Thomas Ihde on Wednesday, March 10, 2004 in Carman Hall Room B36 from 2:00PM to 3:00PM. Baruch College will feature Dr. Séamus Blake, radio host of WFUV's Míle Fáilte. He will speak on the topic of "The Growing Popularity of Irish Language Singers and Music Groups" on Thursday, March 11, 2004, in the Skylight Room (Room 306) at 17 Lexington Avenue from 12:30PM to 1:30PM. Prof. Clare Carroll will speak on Monday, March 15, 2004 from noon to 1:00PM on the topic of "Literature in the Irish Language." Her talk will take place at Queens College in the President's Conference Room #2 of Rosenthal Library. It is recommended to phone the CUNY Institute for Irish American Studies to reserve a seat for the lectures and check for updated information at 718-960-8277 or visit

<<http://www.lehman.cuny.edu/irishamericanstudies>> for more information. Prior to Irish Language Week there will also be an Irish Traditional Music Concert featuring Ann Marie Acosta, Matthew Mancuso, and Deirdre Connolly at Queens College in the LeFrak Concert Hall on March 8, 2004 from noon to 1PM. It is not necessary to call for reservations for the concert, which is free and open to the public.

**Scoil Ghaeilge Ghearóid Tóibín has published its attempt to reconstruct the lost Celtic creation myth** based on Gabháil Cheasrach from the Book of the Invasions and using comparison to surviving Indo-European creation myths. A summary of the core research can be found in Irish at <[http://www.scoilgaeilge.org/Lessons/Indo\\_Eorpach.htm](http://www.scoilgaeilge.org/Lessons/Indo_Eorpach.htm)>.

A summary of the School's methodology and the resulting reconstruction can be found in Irish and English at <[http://www.scoilgaeilge.org/Lessons/cruthu\\_ceilteach.htm](http://www.scoilgaeilge.org/Lessons/cruthu_ceilteach.htm)>. Comments from ACIS members in Irish or English are welcome and can be sent to <[Aireacha@scoilgaeilge.org](mailto:Aireacha@scoilgaeilge.org)>

**IN MEMORIAM:**

***Don Jordan, a founder and past president of ACIS West, died at home on 17 November 2003.***

His wife Marean and son Alex were with him and describe his death as peaceful. Don was Vice President for Academic Affairs and Professor of History and Humanities at Menlo College, in Menlo Park, California.

Much in Don's life is defined by his interest in Ireland and by his warm relationship with Ireland and with Irish people. His interest was initially a professional interest—his specialty was Irish history, especially the history of the Irish west. But it was equally a human interest in all things Irish.

Don was the author of *Land and Popular Politics in Ireland: County Mayo from the Plantation to the Land War* (Cambridge University Press, 1994). As the title suggests, his book is a study of the vexing issue of land ownership in the west of Ireland. It explores the relationship between the tenant farmers' anomalous state and their political awakening. Farming land they could not own, and from which they could easily be dispossessed, they gradually came to recognize themselves as a potential political force. In so doing they played a major role in the development of modern Irish nationalism by creating a sense of Irish rather than merely local identity in the Irish west.

Don was a real historian, his ideas based on long and careful archival work with rent rolls and local country newspapers. His book shows us how the Land War at the end of the 1870's was crucial to the development of Irish Nationalism when, under the leadership of Michael Davitt and Charles Stuart Parnell, the demand for tenants' rights coalesced with the parliamentary Home Rule campaign. Clearly and sensitively written, *Land and Popular Politics in Ireland* immediately became a basic text for historians of Ireland.

By the time he wrote it, Don had become both an insider and an outsider. He had come to understand—to acquire a feel for—Irish history, including Irish local history, while retaining the objectivity necessary for a historian. These different strengths are also evident in his articles and conference papers.

Apart from the personal sense of loss which his many friends and colleagues feel, those of us interested in Irish matters regret the articles and books and conversations of which his early death has deprived us. Don never felt that his work was finished. He was always aware of new possibilities, new interpretations, new ideas, new questions to be examined and discussed.

Don had a marvelous feel for the past, especially the Irish past. He had a rare sensitivity to the ways in which past and present Irish people think and behave.

While contributing as he did to the field of Irish history, Don made a major contribution to the professional development of Irish studies in the American west. He was a co-founder, and later served as treasurer and president of the Western division American Conference for Irish Studies. Over the last twenty-five years he has been a genial and informed presence at our annual gatherings, especially encouraging to those giving a paper for the first time.

Don's professional commitment to the Irish past was matched by his moral commitment to the Irish present. For many years he was an active member of the Irish Forum, a San Francisco institution dedicated to inviting expressions of all points of view about the ongoing crisis in Northern

Ireland.

Tip O'Neill famously said that all politics is local. All history is local too, and it was fitting that Don, who explored the local history of Mayo, a small county in a small country, should serve for many years as a member and officer of the San Francisco Literary and Historical Society. His regular presence and his ready and informed response to papers made our meetings memorable. He always felt a responsibility for encouraging discussion. In recent years he has been editing a book of essays about the Irish in San Francisco, sponsored by the ILHS. He worked on that book as long as he could, editing contributions, writing his own essay, riding herd on dilatory contributors. Thanks to his commitment and his great courage, the book is virtually complete and will soon be published. It will be a monument to Don's scholarship, to his tact, and to his commitment to the local, to the Irish community in San Francisco—another small western county.

Don's work took him regularly to Ireland, to Dublin and his beloved Mayo. He was the best of companions for a journey, especially an Irish journey. Yeats once described John Synge as "that enquiring man," and celebrated Synge's love of Mayo and the Irish west in lines that seem to me also descriptive of Don:

Long traveling, he had come  
Towards nightfall upon certain set apart  
In a most desolate and stony place,  
Towards nightfall upon a race  
Passionate and simple like his heart.

In the coming summer, many people in Ireland who are not here with us today will wonder at and regret his absence, and will miss his quiet humorous gentle presence—as will we all.

Robert Tracy

*In honor of Don's long and talented contributions to Irish Studies, ACIS/West will offer a special \$300.00 convention award for the best paper presented by an emerging scholar at the ACIS Western regional meeting in Greeley, Colorado.*

*See the ACIS website announcements section for more details.*

***Patricia McCabe Lowery died in her sleep on the morning of February 4 at St. Charles Hospital in Port Jefferson, New York.***

Funeral arrangements were handled by the Alexander-Tuttle funeral home in Wading River; the wake was held on the following Thursday and Friday with burial on February 7th at Wading River Cemetery near her home. Pat taught elementary school for many years and was also a painter. She was the wife of Robert Lowery, editor of Irish Literary Supplement, with whom she shared a passion for traveling by Harley-Davidson motorcycles. Flowers and notes of condolence may be sent to him at: 2592 north Wading River road, Wading River, NY 11792. ACIS sent flowers to the service; donations may be made in the name of Pat to Good Shepherd Hospice, 4747-20 Nesconset Highway, Port Jefferson Station, NY 11776.

The deadline for the Fall issue of the Newsletter is *Aug. 15*, for the Winter issue *Nov. 15*, and for the Spring issue *Feb. 15*. We encourage submissions from all ACIS members (please send to [mjockers@stanford.edu](mailto:mjockers@stanford.edu)).

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## JOHN V. KELLEHER, 1916 - 2004: AN APPRECIATION

Professor emeritus at Harvard, John V. Kelleher, died Thursday, Jan. 1, 2004, of complications from pneumonia. Kelleher was born in 1916, in the northeastern Massachusetts town of Lawrence, to a family with roots in nineteenth-century Ireland. The nearest connection was a grandmother who had left for America in 1870.

The son of a contractor, Professor Kelleher attended Dartmouth College on scholarships and graduated with distinction. While in college, he hiked in the New Hampshire woods, boxed and played handball, and read widely and deeply in history and literature, including all things Irish. After graduation, he was made a Junior Fellow of the Society of Fellows at Harvard, with fully subsidized freedom to pursue his scholarship. As a Junior Fellow, he studied the Irish language under Professor Kenneth Jackson. From this position, he achieved wider acclaim by delivering the Lowell Lectures on the subject of modern Irish literature.

During World War II, Professor Kelleher served at the Pentagon in Military Intelligence, Far East, Economic Branch, in charge of the Korean desk. After the war, he returned to his scholarship and began a teaching career at Harvard as Professor of Modern Irish History and Literature.

Early in 1946 with his friend Richard Ellmann, Professor Kelleher went to Ireland for the first time. He toured the country, mostly by bicycle, and met Irish writers and intellectuals, among them Mrs. William Butler Yeats, Maud Gonne, Jack B. Yeats, Patrick Kavanagh, Brian O'Nolan, C. P. Curran, and Samuel Beckett, as well as Michael O'Donovan [Frank O'Connor] and Sean O'Faolain, who became his good friends. Later in his life, he was awarded two honorary doctorates from University College Dublin and the National University of Ireland in Cork.

Professor Kelleher held Harvard's Chair in Irish Studies until his retirement in 1986. He was a renowned teacher for forty years at Harvard, and his lectures, seminars, and conference papers encouraged hundreds of students toward the study of Irish history and literature. As a publishing scholar, Professor Kelleher's great achievement has been his extraordinary essays, which have always a gem-like precision of thought and an exceptional conciseness of expression, leavened with wit, humor, and colloquial directness.

Over the years, these essays have been the catalyst and inspiration for the work in Irish Studies of numerous younger scholars. Moreover, the most remarkable feature of his scholarship has been Professor Kelleher's magisterial command of the entire range of Irish cultural studies in both Irish and English. He has written seminal essays on the earliest corpus of annals, genealogies, and heroic tales, on ideas of "Celticism" in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, on the Irish Renaissance accomplishments of William Butler Yeats and James Joyce, and on the stories of his friends O'Connor and O'Faolain. Moreover, he wrote early, crucial essays that defined terms and set boundaries for the study of the immigrant and ethnic cultures of Irish America.

After retiring, Kelleher continued to support and encourage academic institutions that were developing Irish studies programs. He donated some 700 books to the library at the University of Missouri at St. Louis and the heart of his working library in Irish history, literature, and the social sciences to Southern Illinois University at Carbondale. The volumes in these collections, many of them heavily annotated by Professor Kelleher, constitute a uniquely valuable resource for students and scholars.

Kelleher was instrumental in the development of the field of Irish studies in America. He was a noted scholar of Joyce and Yeats, and one of the first in academia to consider Irish studies as a discipline separate from the study of English and history. Colleagues have credited him with introducing the works of Joyce and Yeats to American readers. ACIS member and retired chancellor of the University of Missouri, Blanche Touhill, noted recently that Kelleher "was the most universally admired person in our shared field of Irish studies."