



# The American Conference for Irish Studies

*An Chomhdhàil Mheiriceànach do Lèann na hÈireann*

*Spring 2010 Newsletter*

## Message from our President, James S. Rogers

### ACIS Newsletter moves to web-only publication

Starting with the next issue, the ACIS Newsletter will appear only in an on-line version. There will be no interruption in publication which appears three times a year in October, January, and April. Dr Jill Brady Hampton will continue as editor.

The reasons for the change are

- Significant cost savings
- The near-universal use of electronic communication by the membership
- Increased timeliness for news and announcements in the Newsletter
- Higher production values, including color images

Hereafter, current ACIS members will receive an e-mail notification with a link to the current issue as soon as it is posted. This is standard practice in other professional organizations, especially in terms of environmental concerns and rising postal rates.

Please note that this makes it imperative that ACIS have your current e-mail address. Addresses are on file for more than 90 percent of our members—but if you are unsure whether your address is on record, please send a message to Secretary Michael de Nie.

The ACIS Newsletter will continue to be archived on the web site at <http://www.acisweb.com/news.php?type=newsletter>. The electronic archive of the publication began with the Fall, 2003 issue.

Over here!

**President**  
James Rogers  
jrogers@stthomas.edu

**Vice President**  
Sean Farrell  
sfarrel1@niu.edu

**International Treasurer**  
Daire Keogh,  
daire.keogh@spd.dcu.ie

**Treasurer**  
Nicholas Wolf  
nwolf2@gmu.edu

**Secretary**  
Michael de Nie  
mdenie@westga.edu

**Past President and International Representative**  
Jose Lanters  
lanters@uwm.edu

**Graduate Student Representative**  
John Malloy  
john.malloy@marquette.edu

**Midwestern Representative**  
Timothy McMahon  
timothy.g.mcmahon@marquette.edu

**Southern Representative**  
Howard Keeley  
irish@georgiasouthern.edu

**New England Representative**  
Mary Burke  
mary.2.burke@uconn.edu

**Mid-Atlantic Representative**  
Kate Costello-Sullivan  
sullivkp@lemoyne.edu

**Western Representative**  
Kendall Reid  
kreid@tacomacc.edu

**Celtic Studies Representative**  
Thomas Finan  
tjfinan@mindspring.com

**Arts Representative**  
Donna Potts  
dlpotts@ksu.edu

**History Representative**  
Ryan Dye  
dyeryand@sau.edu

**Social Science Representative**  
Brigittine French  
frenchb@grinnell.edu

**Irish Language Representative**  
Nancy Stenson  
stenson@umn.edu

**Literature Representative**  
Karen Steele  
k.steele@tcu.edu



**Michael de Nie**  
Department of History  
TLC 3200, Dept. of History  
University of West Georgia  
Carrollton GA 30118  
Email: mdenie@westga.edu  
Phone: 678-839-6033

# Call For Papers

## The 2010 ACIS-West, 1-3 October 2010 Boise State University in Boise, Idaho

If you have questions or would like additional information on ACIS West, please contact Jodi Chilson (Boise State University) via e-mail ([jodichilson@boisestate.edu](mailto:jodichilson@boisestate.edu)) or phone (208-426-3604)



**Conference theme:** “(Re)Defining Irish-ness in the Contemporary/Post-Modern”

**Proposals Due:** May 15, 2010

The 2010 western regional meeting of the American Conference for Irish Studies will be held on 1-3 October 2010 at Boise State University in Boise, Idaho. Keynote Speaker: Professor Christopher Murray, Emeritus Professor of Drama and Theatre History, School of English, Drama and Film, University College Dublin. Professor Murray’s address is titled, “The new thing that has happened, or the old thing that has happened again’: Beckett and the Irish sensibility.” The accomplished poet Trevor Joyce will also provide a reading as part of the conference proceedings. Trevor Joyce is currently the Judith E. Wilson Visiting Poetry Fellow at Cambridge University (2009/10). The announced theme is intended to encourage a broad range of paper topics. Papers are welcome on any Irish Studies topic, including traditional concerns of the discipline and evolving areas of interest in the visual, literary, and interdisciplinary areas. Due date for abstracts for proposed papers: **15 May 2010**. Notification of acceptance will be sent by 1 June 2010. Please send your abstract (250 words or fewer) to Jodi Chilson.

### ACIS-West 2010 Call for Films

The conference organizers are currently seeking film submissions for a panel closely tied to the conference theme. Films submitted should include some aspect of the “(Re)Defining Irish-ness in the Contemporary/Post-Modern,” but the inclusiveness of this theme is open to interpretation. Film submissions should be 15-20 minutes in length. Please submit the film electronically or on disc (PAL or NTSC accepted; please indicate which standard was used). With the film submission, please include an artistic statement regarding the film and how it ties into the conference theme, and a brief biography. Due date for film submissions: **15 May 2010**. Notification of acceptance will be sent by 1 June 2010.

### ACIS-West 2010 Emerging Scholar Award

The 2010 western regional meeting of the American Conference for Irish Studies will be held on 1-3 October 2010 at Boise State University in Boise, Idaho. The conference organizers are currently seeking submissions for the ACIS-West 2010 Emerging Scholar Award. Submissions should include some aspect of the “(Re)Defining Irish-ness in the Contemporary/Post-Modern” but the inclusiveness of this theme is open to interpretation. Submissions are open to all Graduate Students, Doctorial Students, and Post-Doctoral Candidates (within 3 years after the award date for a doctoral degree). Award includes registration fee payment for a subsequent ACIS-West conference and publication in *Siar: The Journal of the Western Institute of Irish Studies*.

Due date for abstracts for proposed papers: **15 May 2010**. Notification of acceptance will be sent by 1 June 2010. Please send your abstract (250 words or fewer) to Jodi Chilson at [jodichilson@boisestate.edu](mailto:jodichilson@boisestate.edu). If you are submitting your abstract and wish to be considered for the ACIS-West 2010 Emerging Scholar Award, please indicate your interest in a cover letter submitted with your abstract.

## The 2010 ACIS-Midwest, 21-23 October 2010 Grand Valley State University’s Pew Campus, Grand Rapids, MI



**Conference theme:** “Whose Ireland?”

**Proposals Due:** TBA

The conference theme emerges from focused discussions held during the past two ACIS-MW conferences regarding the representation of Ireland both here in the States and in Ireland itself. The conference committee welcomes all papers but will appreciate in particular proposals that seek to analyze Ireland’s depiction, description and portrayal and the motivations that may exist behind these statements by historians, cultural critics, essayists, fiction writers, poets, and visual artists who characterize

Ireland. As we have witnessed at our two prior meetings, the contested space of Ireland's identity is as critical in today's global-economic market and as vital to those who call themselves "Irish" as it has been in centuries past when the island was under direct English occupation and cultural influence.

A formal CFP will be posted in May along with additional information on reserving rooms at the conference hotel, the Holiday Inn in Downtown Grand Rapids (just one block from the GVSU Pew Campus). Meetings will take place in the L.V. Eberhard Center and the Richard M. DeVos Center, with dozens of public dining options available within blocks of the campus and hotel. With average high temperatures of sixty degrees and the convenience of GVSU's campus in the heart of an energetic downtown atmosphere, Grand Rapids will be, we trust, an enjoyable site for October's conference. Should you require additional information prior to the release of the CFP and registration details, please feel free to contact either conference co-host, Jim Bell (bellja@gvsu.edu) or Kurt Bullock (bullockk@gvsu.edu).

## **The 2010 ACIS Mid-Atlantic, 1-2 October 2010 Caspersen Graduate School, Drew University, Madison, New Jersey, USA**



**Conference theme:** "RE-VIEWING IRELAND. Irish Culture in Words, Music and Images"

**Proposals Due:** July 1, 2010

Irish culture is known throughout the world. But what is it that makes Irish culture both distinctive and recognizable? At the beginning of the twenty-first century, is there a consensus on what constitutes Irish culture? This conference will explore, re-view and re-evaluate Irish culture in its multiple manifestations. Suggested topics include: sheela-na-gigs and standing stones; the legacy of Joyce, Wilde, Yeats Shaw and Beckett; from the Clancys to Clannad; art and identity; Riverdancing around the world; political messages in banners and murals; churches and censorship; pubs as purveyors of culture; writers in exile; plays and playwrights; Arran sweaters to Kilkenny Design; depictions of the Troubles; images of Irish women; children's literature; Ireland through colonial eyes. Professors Christine Kinealy and Bill Rogers are co-chairs.. Proposals should be c. 350 words and submitted by **1 July 2010** to: jchurch@drew.edu

William Rogers at wrogers@drew.edu

Kathleen Costello-Sullivan (Le Moyne College) at sullivkp@lemoyne.edu

## **The 2010 ACIS New England, 12-13 November 2010 Framingham State College, Framingham, Massachusetts**

**Conference theme:** "The Country of the Young: Interpretations of Youth and Childhood in Irish Culture"

**Proposals Due:** September 10, 2010

"That is no country for old men," declared W. B. Yeats in "Sailing to Byzantium," describing his native land's fascination with youth and legends of rebirth. Some fifteen years later, Taoiseach Eamon de Valera summoned an idyllic version of Irish childhood when he pledged his commitment to an ideal Ireland of happy maidens, sturdy children, and athletic youths. Such images have been challenged by recent controversy over the experiences of children within Church-sponsored schools, as well as by popular memoirs such as *Angela's Ashes* and *Are You Somebody?* – all of which yield fertile ground for exploration and discussion in this year's New England ACIS regional conference. Papers are welcome on such topics as historical depictions of childhood, contemporary youth culture, schooling in Ireland, children's literature, definitions of Irish boyhood and girlhood, memoirs of childhood and adolescence, and images of Ireland as an infant or ancient nation. Our tentative list of plenary speakers includes Maurice Fitzpatrick, whose new book and documentary film, *The Boys of St. Columb's*, chronicle the prestigious Derry grammar school through the eyes of some of its best known alumni, including Seamus Heaney, John Hume, Seamus Deane, and Paul Brady.

Papers in all Irish Studies disciplines are encouraged, as are all papers on Irish subjects that do not specifically address the conference theme. Graduate students are particularly encouraged to participate. Proposals for panels are welcome.

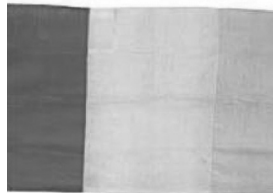
Papers should not exceed 20 minutes in length. Please send abstracts of no more than 250 words to Kelly Matthews, Assistant Professor, Department of English, Framingham State College, kmatthews@framingham.edu. The deadline for submission is **September 10, 2010**.

# ACIS Newsletter

University of South Carolina Aiken  
471 University Parkway  
Aiken, SC 29801

## Sent from one of our Colleagues:

More from the Economic Blues News (EBN) comes from BBC News, which reports that an Irish Rising flag from 1916 did not attract any in house bids at Bloomsbury Auctions in New York. According to the source, "The auction house said the flag was accompanied by a note from Dr George St George, (who owned the flag until 1922) reading 'Captured by British Troops at GPO Dublin, April 1916 and given to Dr George St George by an old War veteran, Sergt Davis'. It added: "Any contemporary pennants, favours or armbands with the tricolour design are extraordinarily scarce with only a few surviving examples of any held in museum collections. "The fact that



this flag is the only recorded full sized tricolour of the 1916 Rising in existence, and therefore of the utmost rarity and importance, and further, documented that it was captured from the headquarters of the short-lived

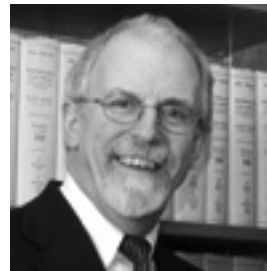
Irish Republic founded by Pádraig Pearse and his comrades, makes it a unique icon of immeasurable significance in the history of the Irish Revolution."

[http://news.bbc.co.uk/go/pr/fr/-/2/hi/uk\\_news/northern\\_ireland/8583799.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/go/pr/fr/-/2/hi/uk_news/northern_ireland/8583799.stm)

Published: 2010/03/24 07:45:02 GMT

## Congratulations

*Richard Finnegan, Director of Irish Studies,  
Stonehill College*



**Has been invited to be:** Visiting Research Professor, Centre for Religion, Culture and Society, Catholic University of Leuven, Leuven, Belgium in the fall of 2010

**And selected as the:** Fulbright Distinguished Chair in the Faculty of Social Science at Masaryk University in the Czech Republic in the spring of 2011

## Newsletter Editor

The ACIS Newsletter appears three times per year, in Fall, Winter, and Spring. Deadlines for submissions are Oct. 1 for Fall, Jan 1 for Winter, and March 1 for Spring. Please send material to Jill Brady Hampton via email: [Jillh@usca.edu](mailto:Jillh@usca.edu). Thanks!

## Web Master

*Phillip Barron*  
[pbarron@nicomediadesigns.com](mailto:pbarron@nicomediadesigns.com)