



Canadian Irish Studies Foundation

# FUNDAMENTALS

NEWSLETTER FOR FRIENDS OF CANADIAN IRISH STUDIES



## CANADIAN IRISH STUDIES FOUNDATION WELCOMES NEW TRUSTEE PAUL MARION

Chairman Brian O'Neill Gallery, LLD, is pleased to welcome Paul Marion as a new trustee of the Canadian Irish Studies Foundation. In confirming Marion's election, Gallery said he was delighted to have a person with such talents, energy and experience join with other trustees as they continue to work for the development of Canadian Irish Studies at Concordia.

Marion is a graduate of Loyola High School and Loyola College (BA 1966). He also obtained an MA in history from Concordia (1974) and completed his residency requirements for a PhD in Chinese history before beginning what evolved into a stellar career at the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce (CIBC).

For many years Marion managed various aspects of CIBC's operations abroad, serving in Hong Kong, Singapore and London. He returned to Canada in 1989 and assumed responsibilities at the bank for senior corporate clients. In 1995 he became managing director for CIBC World Markets and remained in that position until his retirement in 2007.

Throughout his business career, Marion has been active on several boards, including for the University of Toronto and, as chairman, Covenant House, Theatre Lac Brome, the Shaw Festival and the Singapore American Club.

*The Chairman and trustees of the Canadian Irish Studies Foundation extend wishes for a very happy St. Patrick's Day to all its supporters. This is the time of the year when the people of Ireland and the Irish all over the world celebrate the richness of Irish culture and express pride in their heritage.*

# DISTINGUISHED IRISH WRITER TO BE FIRST ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCE AT SCHOOL OF CANADIAN IRISH STUDIES



Artist-in-Residence Kevin Barry

In conjunction with the Department of English, the School of Canadian Irish Studies at Concordia is pleased to welcome Irish writer Kevin Barry as Artist-in-Residence for the winter 2014 semester.

Barry is one of contemporary Ireland's most exciting and innovative writers. He has received critical acclaim at home and abroad for his two extraordinary short story collections, *There Are Little Kingdoms* (2007) and *Dark Lies the Island* (2012). His novel *City Of Bohane* won the prestigious International Dublin Literary Award in 2013.

He has also won the Sunday Times EFG Short Story Prize, the European Union Prize for Literature, the Rooney Prize for Irish Literature and the Authors Club Best First Novel Award. He has been

short-listed for the Frank O'Connor Short Story Award and the Costa First Novel Prize. His stories have appeared in *The New Yorker*, *Best European Fiction*, the *Granta Book of the Irish Short Story* and many other journals. He also writes screenplays, plays and graphic stories.

Barry's writing is the product of an outrageous imagination and an exceptional ability to tease and stretch language in new and unexpected directions. In his fiction, he has created a cast of characters whose dialogue, actions and view of the world bring them vividly alive and give them dramatic presence in our minds.

The School of Canadian Irish Studies is thrilled to host one of Ireland's most accomplished literary figures as its inaugural Artist-in-Residence.

## CANADIAN IRISH STUDIES FOUNDATION TRUSTEES

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Former Senior Partner, Ogilvy Renault

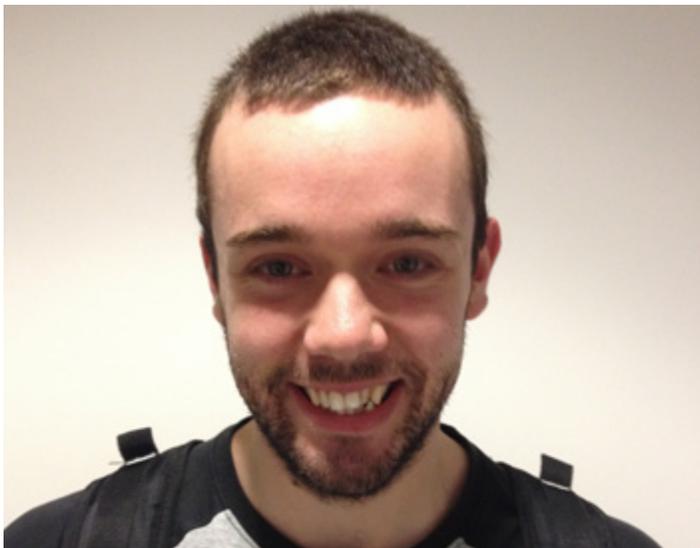
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Matthew R. Tedford, Toronto  
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William Wilson, Montreal  
Contractor (retired)



*Irish exchange student Matthew Molloy*

It might seem counterintuitive that an Irish university student would come to Concordia to study the history and culture of Ireland. Yet Matthew Molloy is here on a one-year's exchange from the National University of Ireland Maynooth (NUIM) because of the mandate of the School of Canadian Irish Studies to examine aspects of Irish and diasporic cultures, society and histories. Molloy says, "As a student of anthropology and history at NUIM and as a former student of European Studies at Trinity College, the highly regarded School of Canadian Irish Studies provided me with the opportunity to further pursue and build on my own research interests in Irish social and cultural history, globalization and rural development."

"The thoroughly interdisciplinary nature of the classes offered by the School, as well as their academic standards and integrity, are a fitting testament not only to the vision and expertise of professors but also to my classmates who are constantly engaged with Ireland on so many different levels, coming, as they do, from different disciplines and backgrounds," he added. "It may seem strange but I can hardly believe how much I've learned about Ireland since I've been here."

In comparing his university experience at Concordia with that in Ireland, Matthew notes, "There is not the same level of interaction with my professors as I have here. As well, the small class sizes here mean that I have gotten to know many of my classmates really well, whereas at home you know only a few faces in the lecture hall."

Of course, Montreal itself was a significant factor in Matthew's decision to come here for an exchange year, noting that the city's multiculturalism and its "happening" status were great attractors. Asked what will be his most abiding impression of Montreal and his experiences at the School of Canadian Irish Studies, Matthew says: "Definitely the range of people. Rural Ireland is not the most diverse place on earth. I am very grateful to my student friends in Canadian Irish Studies, along with the professors and staff of the SCIS, for making this such an educational, enjoyable and memorable academic year."



## SCHOOL OF CANADIAN IRISH STUDIES: OUR MISSION

The approach of St. Patrick's Day provides an opportunity to remind our readers of the mission of the School of Canadian Irish Studies. Our primary goal is to teach students about Ireland's rich cultural heritage at home and abroad, and to suggest how the lessons of this rich and complex history can be relevant for other communities around the world.

With six full-time professors specializing in Irish subjects, Concordia is the only university in Canada offering degree programs dealing with modern and contemporary Ireland as well the Irish Diaspora.

By teaching more than 20 courses annually in disciplines such as history, literature, film, theatre, music, language, diaspora studies, food studies, cultural geography and politics, professors seek to widen students' horizons and develop critical, analytical and presentational skills that prepare them for the job market. During the course of their degree, students who excel can benefit from scholarships provided by the Canadian Irish Studies Foundation, have the opportunity to make contacts with visiting Irish cultural figures and scholars, and pursue part of their studies in Ireland.

The diversity and interdisciplinary nature of the academic programs available at Concordia's School of Canadian Irish Studies can profoundly shape the personal growth of students and influence their perception of the world.

Michael Kenneally  
Principal  
School of Canadian Irish Studies

## IN THEIR OWN WORDS...

Patrick Keenan, trustee of the Canadian Irish Studies Foundation, kindly bought a table for students to attend the October 24, 2013, gala honouring Brian Gallery. In letters of appreciation, students also talked about their experiences at the School. To give a sense of the impact of Canadian Irish Studies on the lives of students, we share some of these comments.

 "I am a third-year undergraduate student at Concordia, and I hope to graduate in 2015 with a double major in honours English literature and Canadian Irish studies. I am fascinated by Irish literature and history, and I plan to pursue these interests in graduate studies. I have recently received news that I am on the Dean's List for a second year in a row. I feel that the support I receive from the Canadian Irish Studies program and its very committed and passionate professors is more than partly responsible for my academic success.

I am also currently working as an office assistant at the School of Canadian Irish Studies. I now consider that signing up for the major in Canadian Irish Studies was the best decision I made as an undergraduate at Concordia, and I feel indebted to everyone who participated in making the program a reality. I feel especially thankful to all the generous donors who have made this vibrant program so intellectually challenging and academically rewarding."

— Carla Plowright, undergraduate major

 "When I came from Toronto to study at Concordia, I was delighted to discover the vibrant programs and activities of the School. Given my own Irish background, I was very pleased to discover that I could study my Irish heritage in a way that made my education valuable in many other, broader areas. I am currently enrolled in the major in Canadian Irish Studies and I enjoy the well-rounded interdisciplinary nature of the program, the variety of courses offered, the commitment of the professors and the many lectures given by visiting speakers."

— Hilary Burke, undergraduate major

 "My passion for the study of modern Irish history, particularly the Irish Revolution, blossomed at the School of Canadian Irish Studies as I was allowed the luxury of focusing on my studies, while a scholarship relieved the financial stress that accompanies a university education. During my studies, the School of Canadian Irish Studies has never ceased to amaze me in its outreach to the student body, from public lecture series and academic conferences to meet-and-greet luncheons. As well, the School facilitated my semester abroad at University College Cork and my study of the Irish language (I am currently in my third year of learning Gaeilge), both of which made my undergraduate degree all the more memorable and important in shaping my future."

— Gabrielle Machnik-Kékesi, graduate degree

 "My passion for Ireland and especially Irish literature is enormous. I was raised hearing the tales of my grandparents, who often spoke to me of my Irish ancestors. But knowing only a little about their forefathers, neither could quite recall where exactly in Ireland they had come from. I started doing some genealogy recently, and I was able to find out that my Irish ancestors were from County Clare and that they arrived in Quebec in 1850. Next summer, I plan to go to Ireland to learn more and about them."

— Antoine Malette, certificate

 "I am native of Trois-Rivières, Que., although my father's family is Irish. It has always been hard for me to feel as if I was at the right place, since I was profiled as the anglophone among francophones. Then, when I came to Concordia, I was the francophone surrounded by anglophones. People were still nice to me but I did not feel as if I connected with them.

Since I came to the School of Canadian Irish Studies, especially since I'm in the major, I feel like that is where I'm supposed to be. Whether you are Irish or not is not the issue; what matters is that we are all fascinated by Ireland and what it can teach us. I love telling people what we study because they give me intrigued and envious looks. I get to study my ancestors and understand my Québécois culture better, all within the requirements of an academic degree. I could not ask for a more exciting and valuable education."

— Helene-Jane Groarke, undergraduate major

 "Originally, I came to the School of Canadian Irish Studies by chance, taking an Irish history survey course to fulfill a requirement for another program. However, after the first month of class, I found myself captivated by the passionate stories of the fight for Irish nationalism and intrigued by the questions of land ownership, republicanism and colonialism they raised. As someone who is not of Irish heritage, I began to apply these Irish issues to questions surrounding my own identity as a Jew who struggles with ideals of nationalism. Through this lens, I have also been able to clarify some of my own views on the modern conflict in the Middle East and understand the issue in a new light, illuminated by a historical understanding of another nation that also experienced colonialism and national partition.

At the end of the year, I entered into the program's major. The inspiring and committed faculty, as well as the enthusiastic students already enrolled in the program, also made my decision an easy one. Now, I look forward to studying at University College Cork in the winter semester and having the incredible opportunity of experiencing Ireland and Irish culture first hand."

— Jordana Starkman, undergraduate major

 "I am fascinated with Irish history, especially the early medieval period and first half of the 20th century. My studies in history have placed me on the Dean's List and I was awarded the distinction of being the Department of History's Arts and Science Scholar of 2012-13. I am also an enthusiast of the Irish language, and am currently enrolled in my second year of Irish language courses. This past summer, I also had the honour of being chosen as one of two students from Concordia to be enrolled in the National University of Ireland in Galway's Irish language summer course, which took place in Connemara. It was an amazing experience! The School of Canadian Irish Studies has broadened my horizons through its interdisciplinary approach. After graduating, I hope to continue my studies in a graduate program."

— Patrick Reed, undergraduate minor

## FEATURED COURSES FOR FALL 2014



Street performance by internationally renowned Galway theatre company Macnas.

### **Parades, Pageants, Performances: Examining Contemporary Irish Identity — Professor Emer O'Toole**

When you think of Irish culture, what comes to mind? Green beer, leprechaun hats and marching bands? Riverdance, Gaelic games and traditional music sessions? Or does Irishness conjure up images of sectarian violence, troubled histories and religious conservatism? Ireland is a nation in which the traditional and the cosmopolitan sometimes sit uncomfortably alongside one another. Add to this the multiple forms of Irishness that exist in migrant communities and it can be difficult to articulate what might constitute contemporary Irish identity at all. This course examines performances of Irishness — from the St. Patrick's Day parade in Montreal to alternative queer beauty pageants in Dublin, from history-making Irish political speeches to modern-day feminist and anti-capitalist street protests — to address questions of cultural identity, cultural authenticity and cultural evolution. Using insights from the exciting field of performance studies, it encourages students to come to an embodied and emotional, as well as intellectual and rational, understanding of what it means to perform politics, to perform ethics, to perform gender, to perform change and, of course, to perform Irishness.



Grosse Île, Que.

### **The Irish in Canada — Professor Jane McGaughey**

Four million Canadians claim Irish ancestry today. Arriving in Newfoundland as early as 1536 and migrating across the country as the agricultural and industrial frontier moved west, the Irish attained a numerical strength second only to French Canadians by the time Canadian Confederation was passed in 1867. By then, Quebec had a higher proportion of Irish-born residents than anywhere else in North America. From Canadian politics and economics, to culture and religion, the trails and footprints of the Irish are to be found everywhere — in Atlantic Canada, Quebec, Ontario and the Canadian west. While this course will focus on the micro histories of the Irish in each of the Canadian provinces, special emphasis will be given to key demographic movements and historic events that highlight the contribution of the Irish to Canadian history — the migration of Irish “wintermen” to Newfoundland, Irish mercantile entrepreneurs in Quebec, the Great Famine, Irish rural pioneers in New Brunswick and Ontario, and the Irish working classes in urban Canada.

## UPCOMING PUBLIC LECTURES AT THE SCHOOL OF CANADIAN IRISH STUDIES

Over the coming weeks, the School of Canadian Irish Studies will sponsor the following lectures that are free and open to the public.

All of these will be held at School of Canadian Irish Studies:

**Fr. McEntee Reading Room**  
Henry F. Hall Building,  
Room H-1001.01 (10th floor)  
1455 De Maisonneuve Blvd. W.

### **March 12, 6 p.m.**

Screening of Lenny Abrahamson's latest film, *What Richard Did*, followed by **Somebody's Got a Problem; Shame, Affect, and Accountability in Lenny Abrahamson's *What Richard Did***

Emma Radley, School of English, Drama & Film, University College Dublin

### **March 24, 7 p.m.**

**Irish Nationalism in Canada, 1912-22?**

Robert McLaughlin, History Department, University of Hartford

### **April 3, 7 p.m.**

**“Crying out of the Earth for Revenge”:  
Extending the Spenser and Irish Studies Canon**

Hiram Morgan, Department of History, University College Cork

# SCHOLARSHIPS UPDATE: STUDENTS TO RECEIVE MORE THAN \$33,000 IN CURRENT YEAR

The School of Canadian Irish Studies thanks its many donors for enabling three new scholarships in the current academic year.

**The Patrick Murray Scholarship** was created by the family and friends of the late Mayor of Rockcliffe Park (and a director of the Canadian Irish Studies Foundation) to provide a scholarship to an Ottawa-area student enrolled in Canadian Irish Studies at Concordia. In Montreal, family and friends of the late **Patrick Valley** have recognized his contribution over many years to Montreal's Irish community, especially to Cine Gael, by endowing a scholarship in his name. Following the death of her husband, Neil McKenty, Catherine McKenty has very generously endowed the **McKenty Scholarship**. As well, the members of Montreal's **Innisfail Social and Sports Club** raised funds for an annual bursary to assist a student in financial need. For confidentiality reasons, the recipient of the bursary of \$650 remains anonymous.

Meanwhile, friends of the late **Joyce Carson and Georges Beriault** have made donations to fund an annual essay prize in Irish history. It is expected that the first prize will be given at the end of the present semester. Along with the graduate scholarships, which will be announced later

## This Year's Undergraduate Scholarship Winners:

WINNER	SCHOLARSHIP	AMOUNT
Anna Campbell	Patrick Murray	\$1,900
Carine Brunet	Fr. Shaun Gerard McCarthy Govenlock	\$1,500
Carla Plowright	Irish Protestant Benevolent Society	\$1,250
James Leduc	Matthew Hamilton Gault	\$1,250
Darius Alexei Pardiak	Geraldine O'Loughlin Stanford	\$1,000
Jordana Starkman	J. Armand Bombardier	\$1,000
Shaney Herrmann	McGee/Hincks/Travers	\$1,000
Patrick Reed	McKenty	\$1,000
Helene Jane Groarke	Stephen Dowd	\$1,000
Gavin Bennett	Moira Ann Snow	\$700
Jessica Poulin	Arthur Meighen	\$600
Catherine McGuire	Gerard Keyes	\$500
Antoine Malette	Sean Treacy	\$500
Isabel Plowright	Patrick Valley	\$500
Hélène Pilbeam	Timothy Edward McIninch	\$500

Note: Graduate scholarships will be awarded later in the academic year.

in the term, more than \$33,000 will be awarded this year to students in Canadian Irish Studies.

The Canadian Irish Studies Foundation asks for your continued support to help with its financial obligations to Canadian Irish Studies at Concordia. As well as seeking to increase the number and the value of scholarships, the Foundation seeks your help to defray the \$600,000 in

costs associated with professors' salaries, scholarships, visiting scholars and public lectures. The Foundation is grateful for the loyal support of annual donors, and welcomes each contribution, no matter how modest.

Please consider marking St. Patrick's Day by giving to the Canadian Irish Studies Foundation. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.



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Email: [cdnirish@alcor.concordia.ca](mailto:cdnirish@alcor.concordia.ca)

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