



Canadian Irish Studies Foundation

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NEW IRISH PRIME MINISTER MEETS IRISH COMMUNITY MEMBERS AND CONCORDIA'S PRESIDENT



Pictured at a reception during Taoiseach Leo Varadkar's visit to Montreal are Rhona Richman Kenneally, fellow of the School of Irish Studies and editor of the Canadian Journal of Irish Studies; Concordia President Alan Shepard; Leo Varadkar, prime minister of Ireland; Pamela McGovern, chair of the Canadian Irish Studies Foundation; and Michael Kenneally, principal of the School of Irish Studies.

Irish Prime Minister Leo Varadkar visited Montreal in August 2017 to meet with Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and walk in Montreal's Pride Parade. The stopover followed the May 2017 visit of former Irish Taoiseach Enda Kenny, Varadkar's predecessor, to Montreal and the School of Irish Studies.

Varadkar also met with representatives of Montreal's Irish community and Concordia officials. He praised the work at the School of Irish Studies and complimented the special partnership between Concordia and the Irish community that resulted in the creation of the school.

In particular, he pointed out the value of sharing Ireland's complex story with students from diverse backgrounds, whose world views can be broadened by learning about the Irish experience at home and abroad. He praised the Montreal Irish community's current plans to commemorate the tragedy of Irish famine victims buried near Montreal's Irish Commemorative Stone, also known as the Black Rock, as well as the inspirational story of the volunteers who helped the destitute immigrants, especially those who sacrificed their lives in doing so.

The Taoiseach also spoke of strengthening economic ties between Ireland and Canada, especially in the context of the recent Canada-European Union Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) and the dramatic changes that will be ushered in after Brexit (the prospective withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the European Union) takes effect. Since his visit, economic ties between Montreal and Ireland have been given an added boost by Air Canada's announcement that it will introduce direct flights from Montreal to Dublin next spring.



The Foundation's chairperson and trustees wish all its supporters a happy Christmas and good luck in 2018!



The endowment for the **Gus O’Gorman Irish Language Scholarship** continues to grow and has now reached \$36,000. To help achieve its goal of \$50,000, please make your contribution payable to the Canadian Irish Studies Foundation. All donors will be acknowledged publicly and receive tax receipts.



Canadian Association for Irish Studies president and Irish Studies professor Jane McGaughey with student Helene-Jane Groarke.

The School of Irish Studies awarded scholarships to two graduate students to participate in the 2017 conference of the Canadian Association for Irish Studies (CAIS), held at the University of Ulster in Derry in June. **Helene-Jane Groarke’s** “The Impact of Socio-Political Context on Identity Formation: Toronto and Montreal’s Nineteenth-Century Irish Catholic Communities as a Case Study” won the prize for best paper by an MA student. The CAIS 2018 conference will be held at Université Laval in Quebec City in June, hosted by **Brad Kent**, who completed his PhD in Irish Studies at Concordia in 2006.

Donors continue to contribute in memory of **Robert Brodrick**, an important member of Montreal’s Irish community who died earlier in 2017. Contributions made in Brodrick’s memory are being used to increase the annual Thomas D’Arcy McGee Scholarship. McGee was a figure close to Brodrick’s heart and is of special interest to his daughter, Robin Brodrick, who is currently majoring in Irish Studies. See who made donations in memory of Robert Brodrick on page 7.



Rebecca Stacey

Rebecca Stacey is the 2017 recipient of the Georges Beriault/Joyce Carson Prize for the best essay in Irish Studies, “My Name That Terrifies: Tracing the Memory and Martyrdom of Oscar Wilde in Relation to Irish National Identity.” In the words of Gavin Foster, associate professor of Modern Irish History, the essay is “an original, intellectually sophisticated and convincing piece of work that successfully integrates a

range of disciplinary perspectives, including history, memory studies, literature, Irish studies and queer studies.” Stacey plans to begin graduate work in Irish Studies in January 2018.

The school extends its sincere thanks to **Ann Drury**, GrDip 77, **Daniel O’Leary**, BA 90, **Kate Bligh** and **Ann English** for their recent book donations to the Irish Studies library.



Emer Nic Labhraí

Emer Nic Labhraí is the 2017 Teagascóir, the junior university scholar from Ireland, who is teaching first- and second-level classes in the Irish language.

Maureen Murphy is the 2017-18 Peter O’Brien Visiting Scholar, teaching courses in Irish literature and folklore. Murphy is a pre-eminent figure in Irish-American life as well as a distinguished scholar. Among her many achievements

is the central role she played in the creation of the Irish Hunger Memorial in New York City. Murphy gave a lecture on the memorial on November 17. Murphy’s most recent book is *Compassionate Stranger: Asenath Nicholson and the Great Irish Famine*.

Undergraduate students **Robin Brodrick**, **Kayla Gasperec** and **Rachael Hutchinson** were awarded scholarships to enrol in Irish language courses in An Ceathrú Rua, Connemara, organized by the National



Susanne Cammack

University of Ireland Galway. The courses ran for four weeks in June, and each student stayed with an Irish-speaking family.

The School of Irish Studies welcomes **Susanne Cammack**, the Fulbright Canada postdoctoral fellow in Irish Studies. During her stay at Concordia, Cammack, who is a specialist in modern Irish literature, will complete a book on Irish writers of the early 20th century.

SPECIAL NOTICE TO LONG-TIME READERS OF THE CANADIAN IRISH STUDIES FOUNDATION NEWSLETTER

The School of Irish Studies is looking for early newsletters from the Canadian Irish Studies Foundation, especially those issued in the years up to 2007. To donate newsletters to the school’s archives, please call 514-848-2424, ext. 8711, or email irishstudies@concordia.ca.

MAURICE ELLIOTT IRISH BOOK COLLECTION

Concordia receives significant donation of Irish literary texts

Thanks to the generosity of Carole Elliott and her family, the School of Irish Studies has become the home of a broad-based collection of books by and on modern and contemporary Irish writers. The 2,000-plus titles were part of the library of the late **Maurice Elliott**, a professor for many years in the English department at York University in Toronto. The collection has a particularly strong representation of writers who were part of Northern Ireland's literary renaissance in recent decades. The collection will be a valuable resource for generations of future scholars.

2017 ST. PATRICK'S SOCIETY OF MONTREAL LECTURE

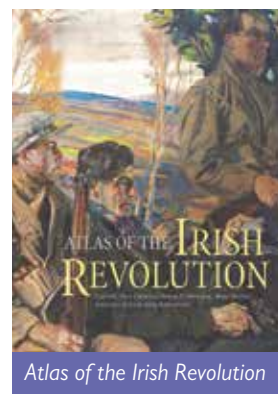


His Excellency Jim Kelly

His Excellency Jim Kelly, ambassador of Ireland to Canada, gave the 12th annual **St. Patrick's Society of Montreal Lecture** at Concordia on November 23, 2017. His topic, "A Global Island," addressed the profound changes currently underway in Irish society, as well as the challenges and opportunities posed by such developments as Brexit and the new CETA agreement between Canada and the E.U.

FACULTY NEWS

Gavin Foster contributed the article "The Social Basis of the Civil War Divide" to the *Atlas of the Irish Revolution*, published in September 2017 and already into its second printing. This mammoth collection consists of more than 300 original maps, several hundred illustrations and more than 140 contributions from leading scholars worldwide. It is a landmark publication representing a groundbreaking contribution to an understanding of modern Irish history.



Atlas of the Irish Revolution



Ethical Exchanges in Translation, Adaptation and Dramaturgy

Emer O'Toole, assistant professor of Performance Studies, recently co-edited and contributed to a collection of essays, *Ethical Exchanges in Translation, Adaptation and Dramaturgy*, published by Brill/Rodopi. She was recently awarded a research grant of \$53,417 from the Fonds de recherche du Québec – Société et culture, in addition to \$22,887 from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council, to study the relationship between Irish theatre and activism. She has academic articles accepted for publication in *Literature Interpretation Theory* and *Éire-Ireland*, and recently produced a show at Concordia with the Feminism and Controversial Humour group. O'Toole regularly contributes articles to *The Irish Times*, *The Guardian* and *The Conversation*.

In December 2017, *The Vibrant House: Irish Writing and Domestic Space*, co-edited by **Rhona Richman Kenneally**, professor of Design and Computation Arts, will be published in Dublin by Four Courts Press. This collection of short memoirs and critical essays consists of contributions by writers Colette Bryce, Eiléan Ní Chuilleanáin, Theo Dorgan, Mary Morrissy and Macdara Woods, and other renowned literary critics. An essay by Richman Kenneally serves as a theoretical introduction to the collection, while a special section of images featuring the houses discussed in the contributions supports the book's emphasis on the Irish home as a vibrant space of personal and national identity formation.



The Vibrant House: Irish Writing and Domestic Space



NEW GRADUATE STUDENTS



Graduate students in the School of Irish Studies' Father Thomas McEntee Reading Room.

Supported in part by generous financial assistance from the Canadian Irish Studies Foundation, Concordia welcomed five new graduate students — three MA and two PhD students — in fall 2017.

Kyle McCreanor, from Squamish, B.C., is enrolled in an MA in Irish History program and will be working with Gavin Foster; **John Cairns**, a Montreal resident originally from Northern Ireland, will pursue an MA in English with a focus on Northern Irish writers, under the joint supervision of Michael Kenneally and Susan Cahill, associate professor of Literature; and **Shaney Herrmann**, who completed an undergraduate degree with a minor in Irish Studies, has enrolled in the Master of Design program. Working with Rhona Richman Kenneally, Herrmann's research will focus on the landscape and food culture of Ireland. **Molly-Claire Gillett** from Orillia, Ont., has enrolled in the interdisciplinary PhD

program, working with Elaine Cheasley Paterson, chair of the Department of Art History, Rhona Richman Kenneally and Susan Cahill. Her research will focus on Irish history, the Arts and Crafts movement and economic rejuvenation at the end of the 19th century. **Hugh Deasy**, an Irish native who recently completed an MA in Irish literature at the National University of Ireland Maynooth, will pursue a PhD on James Joyce under the supervision of André Furlani, chair of Concordia's Department of English.

In all, there are now 21 graduate students at Concordia working on Irish topics in departments including history, film and literature, and in interdisciplinary programs. Most of these students have benefited from scholarships and awards from the School of Irish Studies at various stages of their studies.

CANADIAN ASSOCIATION FOR IRISH STUDIES 2017 CONFERENCE HELD IN DERRY



Participants from Montreal at the Canadian Association for Irish Studies 2017 conference in Derry were Jordana Starkman, MA student at Trinity College Dublin, BA 16, Irish Studies and History; Kelly Norah Drukker, Irish Studies PhD candidate; Helene-Jane Groarke, Irish Studies MA student; Michael Kenneally, principal of the School of Irish Studies; Rhona Richman Kenneally, professor of Design and Computation Arts; Jane McGaughey, president of CAIS; and Thomas Walker, associate dean of Research and Research Programs at Concordia's John Molson School of Business.

GRADUATE STUDENTS EXPRESS THEIR APPRECIATION

WORDS OF THANKS FROM STUDENTS



Derry, Northern Ireland | photo by Greg Clarke, Flickr Creative Commons.

"Please accept my sincerest thanks for selecting me as the recipient of a CAIS 2017 conference scholarship. This generous gift allowed me to experience, for the first time, a coming together of Irish studies scholars from across the globe and to take part in the celebration and exploration of links between Canada and Ireland.

From travel writing about the Aran Islands and witchcraft trials in Islandmagee to walking tours of the historic Derry city centre and late-night conversations with new friends and colleagues, this conference provided me with an unforgettable and deeply nourishing experience.

Thank you so much for your continued support of students and their work, and for creating a community in which Irish culture and scholarship continue to thrive."

— **Kelly Norah Drukker**

"The CAIS conference held in Derry, Northern Ireland, in June was an enriching and motivating experience. I had the opportunity to meet scholars who are crucial to the field of Irish studies and learn from their presentations how to give an interesting paper. I also presented my own master's research, which focuses on comparing Montreal and Toronto's St. Patrick's Day parades in the 19th century to see what we can learn about Irish identity in those years.

I enjoyed giving this paper not only because it is a subject that fascinates me but also due to the support of the CAIS academic community that really encourages graduate students to practise and share ideas with others in a stimulating environment. I was particularly grateful to have been selected as winner of the Joseph McGann Memorial Award, given to the best paper delivered by an MA student. This award validated my research and the efforts I put into this presentation.

It was even more significant for me since the person who presented me the award was my own supervisor and the president of CAIS, Jane McGaughey. I want to thank the School of Irish Studies for its encouragement and financial support over the past several years." — **Helene-Jane Groarke**



Kayla Gasperec

"My deepest and sincerest thanks to the Canadian Irish Studies Foundation for awarding me the opportunity to visit Ireland this summer and spend time immersed in its language and culture. I can think of no better way to have ended my bachelor's degree, and am both eternally grateful and all the more committed to pursuing a graduate degree in Irish Studies.

Go raibh míle maith agat!" — **Kayla Gasperec**

"Thank you for selecting me to attend the Acadamh na hOllscolaíochta Gaeilge in An Cheathrú Rua. This learning opportunity in Ireland was both academically and personally transformative. I gained life lessons, made new friendships and created memories to last a lifetime. I was able to apply knowledge that I acquired in my courses at Concordia and gain a more profound understanding and awareness of the importance of Irish studies.



Robin Brodrick

This experience allowed me to visit historical sites that I have seen in textbooks, such as Patrick Pearse's first summer school and Kilmainham Gaol. I am deeply indebted to the foundation and the School of Irish Studies for making this trip possible and allowing me to fulfill a lifelong dream. *Go raibh míle maith agaibh!*" — **Robin Brodrick**



Rachael Hutchinson

"Going to Ireland for the second time in my academic career to immerse myself in the Gaeltacht was one of the most rewarding experiences of my life. I thank the Canadian Irish Studies Foundation for this wonderful opportunity. Not only did I get to spend my summer learning the Irish language in Ireland but I got to explore the beautiful country with some new

lifelong friends. The experience enriched my appreciation for Ireland and all it has to offer. *Go raibh míle maith agat!*"

— **Rachael Hutchinson**

"I was able to go on a field study to Kells this summer and to Cork on academic exchange due to the generosity of the Canadian Irish Studies Foundation. I'm very thankful for these opportunities, and I can't wait to put my Irish Studies major to good use. Thank you so much."

— **Kameryn Whyte**



Kameryn Whyte

MESAGE FROM PAMELA MCGOVERN, CHAIR, CANADIAN IRISH STUDIES FOUNDATION



Pamela McGovern

The past several months have been an exciting time for Irish Studies as well as for Montreal's Irish community. Following the successful visit in the spring of Irish Prime Minister Enda Kenny, his successor, Leo Varadkar, paid a visit to Montreal and met with community leaders, including a delegation from Concordia. Both prime ministers expressed their appreciation for the work of the School of

Irish Studies and underlined the special relationship the Irish community developed with Concordia to create the school and develop its academic programs. The Trustees and I are delighted that Irish Studies at Concordia is appreciated so much in Ireland.

The recent activities of the school confirm its upward trajectory. These include the summer course and public lecture given by Kevin Whelan of the Keough-Naughton Institute for Irish Studies of the University of Notre Dame in Notre Dame, Ind., and in Dublin. They also include awarding of the Fulbright Canada postdoctoral fellow in Irish Studies to Susanne Cammack, the appointment of Maureen Murphy as this fall's Peter O'Brien Visiting Scholar, and the arrival of Emer Nic Labhraí as the Irish language Teagascóir for 2017-18. All of these were in addition to the many student activities, whether in regular classes, summer language courses in Ireland or at various academic conferences.

My role in the Canadian Irish Studies Foundation and that of our committed team of trustees is to serve as enablers for such initiatives. We do this not only by providing financial support to the School of Irish Studies but also by staying in close contact with the professors and students in the school, so that we can appreciate the excitingly diverse and stimulating world of Irish studies. This has been another successful year of fundraising, as we raised over \$100,000 for student scholarships and special awards. I take this opportunity to thank the trustees for their commitment to the goals of the foundation and, most importantly, I thank all our generous donors whose support allows us to play a small part in transforming the lives of students.

Go raibh maith agaibh go léir,

**Pamela McGovern, Chair,
Canadian Irish Studies Foundation**

CONCORDIA IRISH STUDIES PODCAST LAUNCH!



Beginning with the August 2017 lecture by Kevin Whelan, "Exile and Emigration in Irish Writing," the Concordia Irish Studies Public Lecture Series is now available on podcast on SoundCloud, iTunes, Stitcher and Google Play. Access it from the school's website at concordia.ca/irishstudies or directly at soundcloud.com/user-471612899.

Since 1991, the School of Irish Studies has held an annual public lecture series, which has now featured more than 200 scholars, writers, cultural figures and politicians. Participants have included Garret FitzGerald, Seamus Heaney, Anne Enright, Fintan O'Toole, Colm Tóibín, Nuala Ní Dhomhnaill, Paula Meehan, Henry Glassie, Margaret Kelleher, Roddy Doyle, Emma Donoghue and Síle De Valera. Generously funded by Montreal's Irish community, most significantly the Canadian Irish Studies Foundation, the lectures complement the 25 program courses in 12 disciplines that the School of Irish Studies offers annually.

INNISFAIL SOCIAL AND SPORTS CLUB INCREASES ITS BURSARY FUND

The Innisfail Social and Sports Club recently donated \$2,500, in memory of the club's deceased members, to its bursary fund, bringing the fund's balance to \$19,127. The fund can now provide \$1,000 annually to a student, based on financial need. The Canadian Irish Studies Foundation's trustees are grateful to the members of Innisfail for this thoughtful and crucial form of support.



DONATIONS REPORT FROM THE CHAIR

On behalf of the trustees of the Canadian Irish Studies Foundation and especially on behalf of students who will continue to benefit into the future, I thank all our donors for their wonderful support. — **Pamela McGovern, Chair, Canadian Irish Studies Foundation**

Gus O’Gorman Irish Language Scholarship

The following donors contributed to the Gus O’Gorman Irish Language Scholarship in 2017. With their contributions and that of earlier donors, the fund has now surpassed \$36,000 and is on its way toward a goal of \$50,000. If you haven’t already done so, please consider contributing.

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Father Thomas McEntee Scholarship

The Father Thomas McEntee Scholarship endowment fund recently received a generous anonymous donation. The scholarship, awarded to a graduate student, will now be valued at \$4,000 annually.

Donations in memory of Robert Brodrick

The following donors made contributions in memory of Robert Brodrick, a longstanding and engaged member of Montreal’s Irish community. In keeping with his family’s wishes, these gifts will be added to the Thomas D’Arcy McGee Scholarship endowment fund.

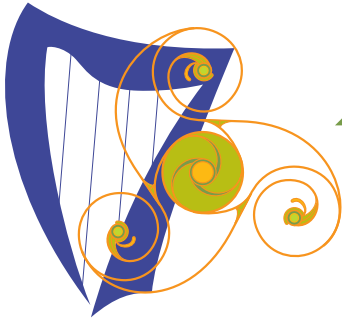
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The following donors contributed to the Canadian Irish Studies Foundation’s general scholarship fund, which supports both undergraduate and graduate students and is important in the development of the School of Irish Studies programs.

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Remember: If you make your donation before the end of December you'll receive a tax receipt for the 2017 calendar year.

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