FALL 2018

Canadian Irish Studies Foundation

FUNDAMENTALS

Our students in Connemara last summer

'Irish Studies comes alive in Montreal'

Looking ahead to 10-year anniversary

NEWSLETTER FOR FRIENDS OF IRISH STUDIES

Université Concordia University

TWO NEW TRUSTEES

At its recent meeting, the Canadian Irish Studies Foundation's (CISF) board approved two new members.

Irene Woods is deeply involved in all aspects of education and has a special interest in students with learning challenges. Born in Cork, Ireland, she earned a bachelor of science at University College Cork. She taught with the Catholic Mission in Eastern Nigeria for two years and came to Canada in 1971. She earned a degree in education from Concordia and another in special education from McGill University.

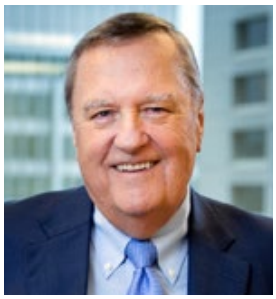
Her passion for helping students with learning disabilities, such as dyslexia, inspired her to open the Westmount Learning Centre in Montreal in 1978. The centre later became Kells Academy, a registered and highly respected elementary, middle and high school with more than 400 students. Founded on the basis that each student has a unique personality with different abilities and talents, Kells Academy upholds the principles of innovative learning methods through recent scientific educational research.

Woods is very proud that her dream translated into Kells Academy. She has two children and enjoys skiing, swimming, travel and the arts.

Mary McGovern started working for the St. Patrick's Basilica and the St. Patrick's Restoration Foundation in 1988. Her responsibilities include managing assets and finances, preparing budgets and reporting to both boards on a regular basis. Her skills in fundraising and applying for government funding are essential to her work. Her strong leadership qualities also allow her to successfully manage all aspects of personnel.

McGovern is a volunteer director of the St. Patrick's Society and president of the St. Patrick's Development Foundation. She is fluent in English and French, and proficient in spoken Greek. She is passionate about her Irish Canadian heritage, and her interests include reading and golf.

NEW TREASURER



The Canadian Irish Studies Foundation's new treasurer, **Robert Kerr**, is the founder and CEO of the Kerr Financial Group of Companies. He provides financial advisory services and investment management to high-net worth clients and focuses on business development, strategic planning and writing. He is a member of the Ordre des comptables professionnels agréés du Québec, Canadian Tax Foundation and International Society of Trust and Estate Practitioners. He was the first non-American admitted to the U.S. Registry of Financial Planning Practitioners and is a U.S. Certified Financial Planner.

Kerr is a well-known author and advocate in the field of financial education. His articles on personal finance have appeared in many Canadian publications, including the *Montreal Gazette*, *Ottawa Citizen*, *National Post* and *Toronto Star*. He was also the editor for the personal finance section of *CA Magazine*. In 1994, Kerr wrote one of the few comprehensive retirement planning books in the Canadian market, *The Only Retirement Guide You'll Ever Need*, which sold more than 25,000 copies. Kerr is a graduate of McGill University and traces his Irish ancestry to Lisburn in County Antrim.

REMEMBERING A FORMER CHAIR

The Montreal Irish community mourns the recent loss of **John M. Little**, a long-standing and committed community member. Little was a trustee of the CISF for many years and chair from 2012 to 2013. He was also president of the St. Patrick's Society from 2004 to 2006, and created the Annual St. Patrick's Society Lecture in Irish Studies at Concordia during his term. The Erin Sports Association named him Irishman of the Year in 2009.

Little was the director of ophthalmology at the Montreal Children's Hospital for 22 years and a retinal surgeon at the Montreal General Hospital for many years. He also served as an ophthalmological consultant to the Montreal Canadiens Hockey Club for 43 years. The chair and trustees of the CISF extend their sympathies to Little's wife, Maureen, and to members of his family.

THE SCHOOL OF IRISH STUDIES TURNS 10 IN 2019!

Celebrations planned throughout the year

In 1991, Concordia began offering courses in Irish history and literature, and established an Irish Studies Public Lecture Series. Funded initially by the St. Patrick's Society, the number of courses would increase throughout the 1990s.

With the creation of the Canadian Irish Studies Foundation (CISF) in 1996, Irish Studies began to expand rapidly, resulting in the establishment of the Centre for Irish Studies, as well as a minor program in 2002.

Concordia approved the creation of the school as an independent academic department in 2009, giving it the authority to hire its own professors and develop unique programs.

The school now offers 25 courses per year in 12 disciplines, with an annual enrolment of more than 1,200 students.

In 2019, to mark its 10th anniversary, the school will organize a series of academic events showcasing the extraordinary growth of Irish Studies at Concordia; members of the community will be especially welcome to participate in these celebrations.

The CISF will launch a campaign in 2019 to support the school as it moves towards the next stage of development.

At a recent meeting of trustees, **Pamela McGovern**, CISF chair, emphasized the foundation's commitment to the activities of the School of Irish Studies:

"Concordia rightly sees the school as one of the jewels in its crown, yet I believe it is also an extraordinary treasure and great source of pride for the Irish community in Montreal and across Canada," she said. "Created with community support, the school has emerged as the cultural and intellectual heart of the Irish in Montreal, whether through public lectures, courses or many special events."

McGovern went on to say that donors to the CISF should be proud that this permanent educational institution teaches both students and community members about Ireland and about the Irish in Montreal, Quebec and Canada:

"I have been delighted to discover aspects of my own deep roots in Quebec and, in particular, to learn more about Irish issues that impact the wider world. It is this larger relevance of Irish Studies that can help students to understand their own lives and lay the foundation for careers that can equip them to tackle the challenges of their world," she said.

"I invite all our readers to donate to the CISF so that it can continue to support the development of Irish Studies at Concordia."

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1455 De Maisonneuve Blvd. W., H-1001
Montreal, Quebec H3G 1M8
Tel.: 514-848-2424, ext. 8711
Fax: 514-848-2866
irishstudies@concordia.ca
concordia.ca/irishstudies

CANADIAN IRISH STUDIES FOUNDATION FUNDAMENTALS

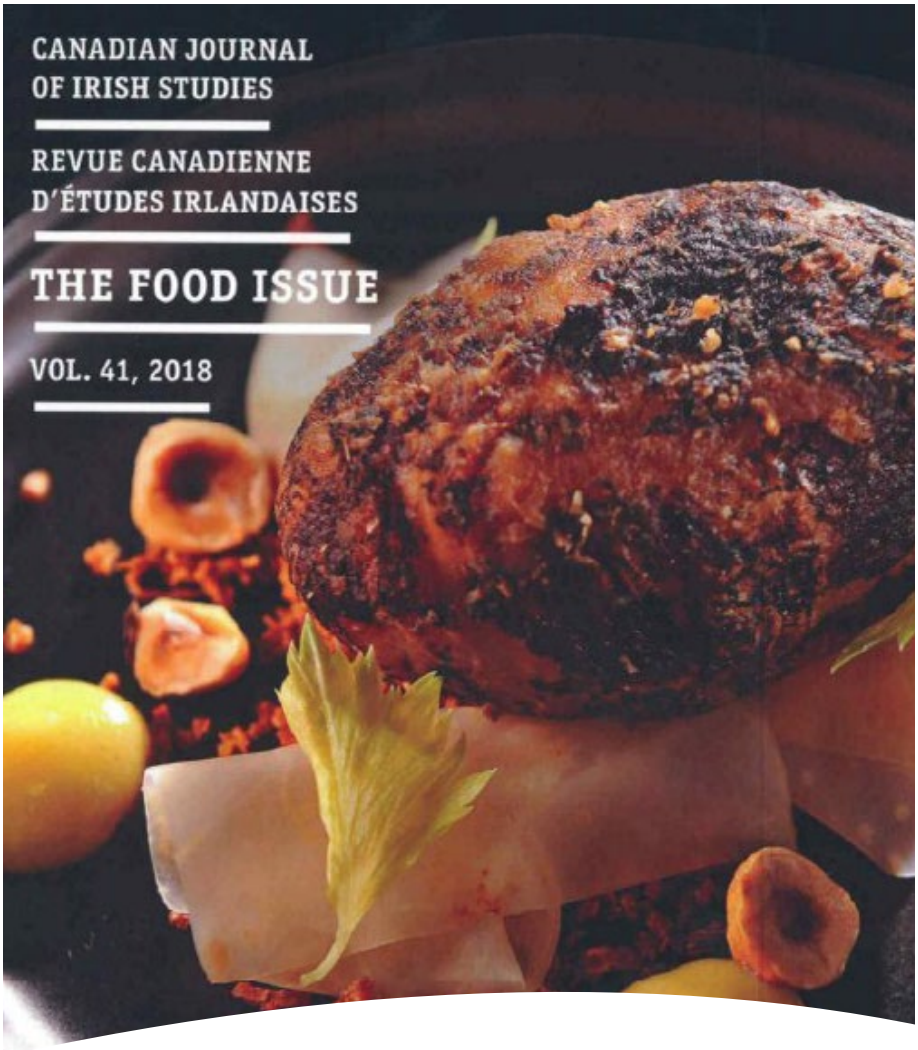
Executive editor: Michael Kenneally

Editor: Louise Morgan

Assistant editor: Marion Mulvenna

Design: Stephen Pan

FROM A LEGACY OF FAMINE TO AWARD-WINNING CHEFS



Rhona Richman Kenneally, professor in Concordia's Department of Design and Computation Arts, and Máirtín Mac Con Iomaire, lecturer in the School of Culinary Arts and Food Technology at Dublin Institute of Technology, edited a special issue of the Canadian Journal of Irish Studies (CJIS) on Irish food, launched at the Dublin Gastronomy Symposium in May.

This volume highlights the significance of Irish food culture, both historically and today. Its articles explore a range of subjects, from the pervasiveness of tea-drinking habits as seen in Irish artworks, to the efforts in care homes for youths in Dublin to create conditions of commensality during mealtime.

Richman Kenneally's introduction also features research-creation student work at Concordia that investigates facets of the complex role food plays as part of Ireland's famine legacy and as a transmitter of culture in the diaspora. The volume includes two articles that address present-day culinary achievements of Irish restaurants and chefs, including a photo essay on Mark Moriarty, winner of the 2015 San Pellegrino Young Chef Award.

Ross Lewis, chef and co-owner of Dublin's Michelin-starred restaurant Chapter One, launched the issue in Dublin. The Food Issue has been widely acclaimed, both inside and outside Ireland.

The Canadian launch of the Food Issue took place at the Canadian Association for Irish Studies (CAIS) conference at Université Laval in Québec City in June. Richman Kenneally, editor of CJIS since 2010, has, in collaboration with Concordia design professor Pata Macedo, transformed the scope and layout of the journal. CJIS is currently among the most distinguished of the many Irish Studies publications available internationally.

To honour her achievement, the executive committee of the CAIS announced during the launch that it was creating the Rhona Richman Kenneally Award for the most successful PhD student presentation at its annual conference.

The inaugural winner is Kate Bevan-Baker, who just completed her PhD in Irish Studies at Concordia, for her presentation on the Irish soundscape of Prince Edward Island.

Meanwhile, Antoine Malette from Concordia and Beth Downey-Sawatzky from Memorial University shared the annual Joe McCann Prize for the best presentation by a master's student.

To receive a copy of the journal, please contact the School of Irish Studies at 514-848-2424, ext. 8711, or **irishstudies@concordia.ca**.

THE BENEFITS OF IRISH STUDIES

HELP SPREAD THE WORD TO POTENTIAL STUDENTS

The school's newly published, eight-page promotional brochure — in the shape of a harp — highlights the extraordinary benefits available to students who enroll in Irish Studies. These include significant financial support, opportunities to study in Ireland, options to combine Irish Studies with another area of interest and, most importantly, the wide range of careers available to graduates of our multidisciplinary programs.

We encourage our readers to share the brochure — enclosed with this newsletter — with family, friends and neighbours, especially those with students who are considering their options at university.

IRISH STUDIES COURSES: 2018–19

FALL 2018

Introduction to Irish Studies
The Irish in Montreal
Highlights of Irish Literature
History of Ireland
Irish Traditional Music: A Global Soundscape
The Irish Revolution, 1913-23
Classics of Irish Theatre
Contemporary Irish Literature
James Joyce

FALL/WINTER 2018/19

The Irish Language and its Culture I
The Irish Language and its Culture II

WINTER 2019

The Irish in Canada
Celtic Christianity (offered online through eConcordia)
Celts to Tudors: History of Early and Mediaeval Ireland
Independent Ireland from Civil War to the Celtic Tiger
Irish Children's and Young Adult Literature
Irish Literary Revival
Irish Film Studies
Intercultural Ireland: Film, Theatre and TV
Politics of Northern Ireland
History and Memory in Ireland

SUMMER 2019

The school will offer three intensive summer courses in 2019 by visiting Irish scholars, on subjects such as the Irish economy, Irish cultural geography, and Irish design and material culture. Details will be available early in 2019 at *concordia.ca/irishstudies*.

‘IRISH STUDIES COMES ALIVE IN MONTREAL’ – PRAISE FROM VISITING PROFESSORS

Last summer, three visiting professors from Ireland offered courses at Concordia: Contemporary Irish Literature and the Irish Landscape (**Eve Patten**, Trinity College); An Introduction to Irish Visual, Material and Design Cultures (**Linda King**, Dublin Institute of Art, Design and Technology); and The Irish Economy and European Union (**Paul Gorecki**, Trinity College). On their return to Ireland, Patten and King gave their thoughts on the experience of teaching Irish Studies.

EVE PATTEN, TRINITY COLLEGE

“I found the students themselves tremendously receptive to the content and purpose of an Irish Studies literature course. This was a mixed profile group, one that brought a fascinating range of backgrounds and skills to the classroom…

They were a talented group – articulate, confident and industrious – who read everything on the course and a good deal more. Their class presentations and written assignments showed the great benefits of Irish Studies as an interdisciplinary resource that allows students working across the Arts and Humanities to evolve and fine-tune their own subject specialisms.”

I was deeply struck by the natural fit of Irish Studies within the current political and cultural concerns of Quebec society at large, and beyond the confines of the university.

Drawing on the range of Irish writing I introduced to the class, the students were able to address and in many cases re-evaluate issues ranging from emigration and diaspora, language conflict, gender and ethnicity to the condition of the globalized city.

It was enriching and refreshing for me, as a long-time lecturer in Irish literature, to see the subject come alive with new relevance and context in Montreal.

The experience brought home the value of studying Irish culture in Canada, not because Ireland itself is ‘privileged’ in some way but because the complex historical, political and cultural make-up of the country allows us to perceive, in such concentrated forms, various conditions and evolutions taking place in a much larger nation with similar lines of inheritance.”

Patten’s course was part of the school’s goal to give more flexibility to students by offering courses during the summer. This aim aligns with a pattern Concordia has been formalizing over the past several years. The school hopes to offer three summer courses in 2019.

LINDA KING, DUBLIN INSTITUTE OF ART, DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY

"The students were remarkable: incredibly bright, fully engaged, enthusiastic and committed. Although the level of work was challenging…they not only rose to the challenge but worked beyond that and my expectations to a level in excess of what was required to comfortably pass the course (which they all did with flying colours).

I was genuinely taken aback by the quality and quantity of work they were able to produce in this five-week period. The class comprised Filipino, Irish-Canadian, British-Canadian, Moroccan-Israeli, French, Quebecois, El Salvadorian and Lebanese — representative of the rich mosaic that is Canada — and the class became a safe place to speak about identity politics in all forms.

As the focus of the course was on the meaning and agency of popular objects and images, this enabled them to focus on objects dear to them or central to their own areas of study, which they then analyzed to consider moments of greater national or global importance.

The theme of Irish national identity formed a spine throughout all the classes, which covered big thematics, including globalization, nation building and decolonization, religiosity, nostalgia and the diaspora, but I adjusted each class to include Canadian and Quebecois examples that also encouraged comparative analysis.

For example, one student from Vancouver used a maple syrup tin to explore the tropes of Canadian stereotyping while also confronting her family's history as farmers who had benefitted from taking lands from Indigenous people. An Irish-Canadian student used a selection of album covers of Quebecois music to explore the semiotics of representing music throughout decades and to examine the influence of Irish traditional music on the same. A Quebecois student produced a research-creation project of stamps 'commemorating' the Oka Crisis, which sparked amazing discussion between them and the Moroccan-Israeli student (who had been in the Canadian Army) about Canada's oppression of First Nations peoples. Another research-creation project used a family collection of Lebanese stamps to explore the semiotic representation of Middle Eastern politics in the context of nation building and conflict.

The projects were diverse, sophisticated and ambitious and in all instances they chimed with contemporary political discourse within Montreal specifically and Quebec more broadly including globalization/Americanization, language as identity, human rights and civil liberties."

Linda King is pictured recently with Irish President Michael D. Higgins, who has just been re-elected for a second term.

FIRST GUS O'GORMAN SCHOLARSHIP WINNER STUDIES IN CONNEMARA

In 2018, the inaugural $2,500 Gus O'Gorman Irish Language Scholarship was awarded to second-year student Erin Hynes in partnership with the Ireland Canada University Foundation (ICUF). Hynes spent three weeks in Connemara this past summer on an Irish language immersion course offered through the National University of Ireland Galway.

Niamh Ó Dochartaigh welcomes Hynes to her home in Ireland

Hynes with Dr. Aisling O'Gorman visiting Ireland from Montreal

Hynes with Dr. Eoin Ó Dochartaigh in Ireland

"Being the inaugural Gus O'Gorman scholar is an honour. This scholarship allowed me to meet many amazing people, both in Montreal and in Galway, including Gus O'Gorman's family and friends.

This experience was so important to me because I got to hear about everything Gus O'Gorman did for many years to promote Irish culture and language in Montreal. Many people often ask me why I invest so much time and attention to Irish culture, and now I can include trying to honour Gus's legacy in my response.

The main focus of my visit to Ireland was to enroll in the Irish language courses held at the National University of Ireland, Galway. But, as the first recipient of the Gus O'Gorman Scholarship, I was especially privileged. I had the pleasure of getting to know Gus's widow, Karin Austin, and his daughter, Dr. Aisling O'Gorman. In addition, I met Margaret Wright, alumni relations officer at the National University of Ireland in Galway, Dr. Eoin Ó Dochartaigh, Gus's medical classmate and life-long friend, and his wife, Niamh Ó Dochartaigh, a distinguished historian. All of these individuals have dedicated much time to carrying out Gus's legacy.

Meeting all these people and travelling to Ireland were profound experiences for me. I will remain eternally grateful to all donors to the Canadian Irish Studies Foundation who helped create the Gus O'Gorman Scholarship."

— Erin Hynes

The Canadian Irish Studies Foundation hopes the Gus O'Gorman Scholarship fund can reach its $60,000 goal so it can provide a $3,000 award for summer 2019. Because of the extraordinary generosity of the O'Gorman family and its friends, $49,824 has already been raised. See back page for information on making your donation, no matter how modest.

IRISH STUDIES PHD STUDENT WINS ACIS-WEST AWARD

Congratulations to our Irish Studies PhD student **Molly-Claire Gillett** (pictured in middle) for winning the Donald E. Jordan, Jr.–Willard C. Potts, Jr. Emerging Scholar Award for her presentation at the American Conference for Irish Studies – Western Regional Conference in Jackson Hole, Wyoming in October.

The title of her paper was Home Charms: Unpacking the Irish Immigrant Woman's Home Through Speculative Design.

MEET OUR IRISH STUDIES LANGUAGE AWARD RECIPIENTS

Along with the Gus O'Gorman Scholarship winner, three other students went to Ireland this past summer to enroll in Irish language courses, with financial support from the Canadian Irish Studies Foundation, and in collaboration with the Ireland Canada University Foundation. Living with Irish-speaking families in Carraroe, Doroteya Borisova, Chelsea Lacasse-Gobeille and Alexis Kelly studied under the auspices of the National University of Ireland Galway. On their return, each student wrote a letter summarizing the experience of being in the Irish Gaeltacht.

"After completing two Irish language courses at Concordia, I was thrilled to study and practice Irish in Carraroe this summer. My sincere thanks to the School for the chance to experience first-hand what I've been studying. ***I am deeply grateful to the many donors to the CISF for the financial support they have given me.*** *This includes the Patrick Murray Scholarship, support for our language weekends in Arnprior and Kingston, and the scholarship to study Irish in Connemara. Go raibh míle maith agaibh!"*

— Doroteya Borisova

"When we arrived at the National University of Galway and then went on to Carraroe, it was the beginning of a great educational and cultural adventure. While we took intensive classes each day, we kept using Irish as much as we could with our 'house mom' (Bean an tí) and her grandchild in the evenings. She encouraged us to speak as much Irish as we could.

As a Francophone, it was a revelation to me to see how many people in An Cheathrú Rua use Irish in their daily lives. ***Hearing and speaking the language of my ancestors made me want to teach Irish to my own family — it was a life-changing experience.*** *I have come back not only with great memories, but also a deeper appreciation of the richness of Irish culture. I want to thank most sincerely all the kind donors of the CISF whose support made this dream come true!"*

— Chelsea Lacasse-Gobeille

"Being surrounded by the Irish language and people who are so enthusiastic about it made my immersion experience this summer extraordinary. It was so much easier to grasp the language because it was all around me. ***I am immensely grateful to the CISF donors for this enriching experience. My determination to succeed as a student in Irish Studies has never been stronger.*** *Since I am a very committed player of the Irish uillean pipes, my plan, once I complete my degree, is to return to Ireland to explore the manufacturing tradition of the uillean pipes."*

— Alexis Kelly

DISTINGUISHED SPEAKERS IN OUR 2018–19 LECTURE SERIES

The annual Irish Public Lectures Series, hosted by the School of Irish Studies, welcomed four high-profile speakers during the fall semester.

Professor **Cahal McLaughlin**, chair of Film Studies at Queens University Belfast and Director of the Prisons Memory Archive (PMA), spoke on September 18 on "Telling Stories from the Troubles: The Prison Memory Archive." The PMA is a collection of 175 filmed walk-and-talk recordings with those who had a connection with prisons during the Northern Ireland conflict. Participants include prison staff, prisoners, relatives, teachers, chaplains, lawyers, doctors, probation officers and maintenance workers. Made in 2006 and 2007, the recordings capture how the conflict impacted everyday life, and builds a rich tapestry of the story of the prisons, just one of the many stories from the conflict.

Professor **Margaret Kelleher** gave the prestigious annual St. Patrick's Society lecture October 4. She holds the Chair in Anglo-Irish Literature and Drama at University College Dublin and has a distinguished academic reputation in Ireland and around the world. Her topic, "Commemorating the Irish Famine: Sites and Dynamics of Memory," attracted a capacity audience of about 150 Irish Studies students and members of the St. Patrick's Society and Montreal community. The event was chaired by Susan Cahill, acting principal at the School of Irish Studies, who welcomed special guest His Excellency Jim Kelly, Ambassador of Ireland to Canada. St. Patrick's Society President Scott Phelan provided an evocative context for Kelleher's lecture by drawing attention to the tragic arrival in Montreal of victims of the famine, and referring to the commendable efforts by the Montreal Irish Memorial Park Foundation to commemorate the victims buried in Montreal.

On October 18, the Peter O'Brien Visiting Scholar, **Clíona Ó Gallchoir** of University College Cork, gave the 16th Annual Bishop Neil Willard Lecture. Her topic, "'Along the Line': Women's Writing in 18th-Century Ireland," introduced several neglected women writers from the period, such as Charlotte Brooke, Elizabeth Griffith and Elizabeth Sheridan. The lecture explored how these writers — novelists and playwrights — connected female self-assertion with a specific aspect of emerging Irish patriotism in the 18th century. Ó Gallchoir's publications include *Maria Edgeworth: Women, Enlightenment and Nation* (2005) and, as co-editor, *A History of Modern Irish Women's Literature* (2018). As the 2018 Peter O'Brien Visiting Scholar in the School of Irish Studies, Ó Gallchoir has been teaching two courses, Highlights of Irish Literature and Contemporary Irish Literature.

Laura Finlay, Second Secretary at the Embassy of Ireland in Ottawa, who holds an MSc in Equality Studies from the School of Social Policy, Social Work and Social Justice in University College Dublin, delivered the 9th Annual Ann Saddlemyer lecture on November 4. Finlay's first desk in the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade was working on the departmental approach to gender equality and diversity issues. Before that, she worked primarily in the voluntary sector. Her lecture, "A Brief History of the LGBTTQIA2S Movement in Ireland," began with a survey of the global LGBTQI rights movement. She then traced the developments that led up to Ireland's current reputation as one of the most LGBTQI-friendly countries in the world by exploring decriminalization, marriage equality and gender recognition. Finlay also briefly discussed the LGBTTQIA2S movement in Canada, as well as issues still faced by the LGBTQI movement in Ireland.

ST. PATRICK'S SOCIETY SCHOLARSHIP WINNER

Irish Studies PhD candidate **Jérémy Tétrault-Farber** — whose research is on the Irish traditional music scene in Montreal in recent decades — has won the 2018 St. Patrick's Society Scholarship. To acknowledge this prestigious scholarship, Jérémy sent the following letter to Scott Phelan, president of St. Patrick's Society of Montreal.

"I am honoured to receive the St. Patrick's Society of Montreal Graduate Scholarship. My deepest thanks to the St. Patrick's Society and the School of Irish Studies for their ongoing support of research initiatives in Irish history and culture in Montreal, in Quebec and further afield.

This scholarship is especially meaningful to me, as I hold the St. Patrick's Society close to my heart. As Pipe Major of the Montreal Pipes and Drums, I have the honour of leading the only independent civilian pipe band in the city. For many years the band has marched in Montreal's St. Patrick's Day parade as part of the St. Patrick's Society's marching unit. This annual performance in support of the society is a privilege for the band, and a highlight of our piping-and-drumming year — no matter how cold the wind, nor how icy the streets.

I have also explored the society's history at length as part of my research. My thesis, which I intend to defend in 2019, explores the evolution of Irish traditional music in Montreal since the 1970s. I have tapped the St. Patrick's Society's rich archives to shed light on the society's important role in funding and promoting the performance and transmission of Ireland's traditional music. Among other insights, I discovered that the society once had its own pipe band; its members wore Irish kilts and performed at various functions between 1965 and 1967.

I look forward to continuing my research. Many thanks for making my research possible."

— Jérémy Tétrault-Farber

IRISH STUDIES STUDENTS CONTINUE TO EXCEL

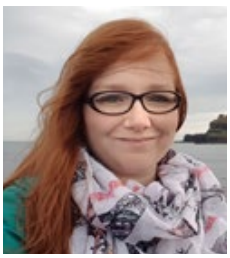
31 RECIPIENTS OF THE BRIAN O'NEILL GALLERY AWARD

Congratulations to 31 Irish Studies students who received a total of $66,000 in tuition awards in the 2017-18 academic year from the Brian O'Neill Gallery Scholarship Fund. The fund was created to mark Gallery's retirement as chair of the Canadian Irish Studies Foundation and to recognize the central role he played in achieving the vision of creating a School of Irish Studies at Concordia. These awards are given to students who achieve academic excellence each semester.

Undergraduate **Kayla Fanning** received the prestigious Faculty of Arts and Science Scholar Award as the Irish Studies student whose GPA was within the top one per cent for the 2017-18 academic year.

Two other Irish Studies students, **Marie-Eve Tremblay** and **Alexis Kelly**, appeared on the Dean's List for their outstanding academic performance.

From left: André Roy, dean of the Faculty of Arts and Science, Kayla Fanning and Susan Cahill, professor and acting principal at the School of Irish Studies



Marie-Eve Tremblay

Alexis Kelly

Canadian Irish Studies Foundation

Université Concordia University

SUPPORT NEXT-GENERATION STUDENTS IN IRISH STUDIES

Taking a break from their studies in the Fr. Thomas McEntee Reading Room are, from left to right: Kay Nguyen (undergraduate), Christopher Byrne (undergraduate), Giselle Gonzalez (MA), Kyle McCreanor (MA), Evan Clarke(undergraduate), Kelly Lamb (undergraduate), Rebecca Stacey (MA), Emerald Hutton (undergraduate).

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