Spring 2018

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NEWSLETTER FOR FRIENDS OF IRISH STUDIES

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## WARM THANKS TO GARY O'CONNOR AND MATT TEDFORD

Message from Pamela McGovern, chair, Canadian Irish Studies Foundation

A fter more than 15 years of service, **Gary O'Connor**, BComm 68, has retired as treasurer of the Canadian Irish Studies Foundation.

During this period, Gary has worked efficiently and quietly to ensure that the finances of the foundation were kept in appropriate order. His commitment and professionalism guaranteed that clear, transparent financial records were available to the trustees at all times. Behind the

scenes, Gary worked with Concordia's School of Irish Studies on an ongoing basis, as donations were received and processed. He also liaised with auditors so that annual financial reports could be drawn up and approved.

I know that my predecessor, Brian O'Neill Gallery, emphasized on many occasions how indispensable Gary was and how lucky the foundation was to have such an efficient professional in charge of its finances. My experience has confirmed the central role Gary has played and how much the foundation and the school have relied on his diligent work.

Even though we will miss Gary and regret to see him go, we understand that he has done yeoman service for Irish Studies. I will miss



Gary O'Connor

working with him. I am sure I speak on behalf of the trustees, as well as those who have been associated in different ways with Irish Studies, when I express our sincere thanks to Gary O'Connor and wish him the very best in the future.

At a later date, the foundation will decide on a permanent form of appreciation for Gary's extraordinary generosity in giving of his time and sharing his professional expertise for the benefit of Irish Studies.

I have also received word from trustee Matt Tedford that he is leaving the board. Matt has been an energetic and committed trustee who travelled frequently from Toronto to attend meetings. He and his wife Liz organized the fundraising event in Toronto, attended by Brian O'Neill Gallery and former prime minister of Canada Paul Martin. On behalf of the board, I thank Matt for his service towards the advancement of Irish Studies. We are very grateful for all he did to raise the profile of the foundation in Toronto. I wish Matt good luck and express our appreciation.

Go raibh maith agaibh go léir,

Pamela McGovern, Chair Canadian Irish Studies Foundation

It's the time of the year when the people of Ireland and the Irish all over the world celebrate their culture and heritage. To all our friends and supporters, we extend warm wishes for a very happy St. Patrick's Day.

Chair and trustees of the Canadian Irish Studies Foundation



#### KYLE MCCREANOR, Fr. Thomas Daniel McEntee Scholarship

"Originally from a small town on the West Coast (Squamish, B.C.), I completed my BA at the University of Victoria in history and linguistics. For years I intensively studied the history of the Basque Country, a region familiar to many Irish people. I travelled there in 2015 to attend an euskaltegi, a Basque-language immersion school — an experience not unlike that of the many students who travel to the Gaeltacht to learn Irish. I quickly



Kyle McCreanor

became interested in the parallels drawn by many scholars between the Basque Country and Ireland, and I began to focus increasingly on Irish history.

For graduate studies, I was determined to explore the early history of the relationship between Irish and Basque nationalists, from the late 19th century to the Spanish Civil War. The profile of the School of Irish Studies made Concordia a clear choice for graduate school.

I have received a warm welcome here and I could not be happier with my choice. My research will take me to several archives in Ireland this summer, which would not be possible without the support of this fantastic community. I want to express my most heartfelt thanks to the Canadian Irish Studies Foundation and the generous donors of the McEntee Scholarship for making my studies here possible.

Go raibh maith agaibh!"

#### HÉLÈNE JANE GROARKE, Irene Mulroney Scholarship

"During my undergraduate degree and the beginning of my master's degree studies, my involvement in the School of Irish Studies and the St. Patrick's Day parade as a princess led me to understand the importance of St. Patrick's Day in defining Irish identity in Montreal and establishing the place of the Irish in Canada. My research focus is on the Montreal and Toronto parades, comparing and contrasting the changes in Irish identity over time



and analyzing how the Irish express their Irishness.

The Irene Mulroney Scholarship permits me to concentrate on completing my master's thesis by spring 2018 without having to worry about my finances. More importantly, this scholarship reminds me of the significant support I have as a member of the School of Irish Studies and as a member of the Irish community in Montreal. It is truly a privilege to receive the Irene Mulroney Scholarship and I thank all the donors who have made this possible."

#### KATE BEVAN-BAKER, St. Patrick's Society Scholarship

I am so grateful to be the recipient of this year's St. Patrick's Society Graduate Scholarship. Thank you very much for your continued generosity to the School of Irish Studies in promoting research and continued education to graduate students like me. I feel very honoured to be chosen as this year's recipient, as this is my final year as a graduate student at Concordia.

In 2012, I met Professor Gearóid Ó hAllmhuráin, Concordia's School of Irish Studies Johnson Chair in Quebec

and Canadian Irish Studies, who became my primary thesis supervisor and a musical colleague as well. My PhD research focuses on Irish music on Prince Edward Island. In addition to researching traditional Irish music, I am also an active fiddle player with various musical groups in Montreal. I have been lucky enough to perform at the annual St. Patrick's Society luncheons and annual charity balls with my trio, Solstice, for the past five years. Getting to know members of the St. Patrick's Society through events such as the luncheons and annual balls makes this scholarship even more meaningful to me.

This funding will allow me to focus on the final writing stages of my PhD this academic year. I plan on defending my thesis in mid-March, just in time for St. Patrick's Day celebrations. Upon graduation, I plan on teaching in Montreal, ideally at the university or CEGEP level. Having taught at the Siamsa Montreal School of Irish Music, I have established a wide network of students and colleagues within the local Irish community.

I look forward to seeing members of the St. Patrick's Society throughout this coming year and in the years ahead. Thank you once again for this generous scholarship."

#### **BOOK DONATION FROM IRISH-BORN GRANDFATHER OF CONCORDIA ALUMNUS**

The School of Irish Studies recently received a collection of books from Vancouver, generously donated by Jean-Philippe Bolduc, BComm 08, grandson of Henry William Bridge from Roscrea in County Tipperary. "Although my grandparents lived in Vancouver, they visited Montreal often and would have been very pleased to see the books go to the school," Bolduc said. Michael Kenneally, principal of the School of Irish Studies, said that current and future students will benefit from these important research resources.



# **CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2017-18** UNDERGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

#### A TOTAL OF \$23,500 WAS AWARDED TO THE FOLLOWING STUDENTS FOR THEIR OUTSTANDING ACADEMIC **ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE IRISH STUDIES MAJOR:**

#### Recipient

Doroteya Borisova Victoria Lowery Erin Dunlop Alice Charbonneau Kayla Fanning EamonToohey Victoria Kelly Marie-Eve Tremblay Alexis Kelly Keenan Churchill Sarah Bissonnette Robin Brodrick Katrina Di Lalla Kameryn Whyte Chelsea Lacasse-Gobeille

## Scholarship

Patrick Murray D'Arcy McGee Matthew Hamilton Gault Fr. Shaun Gerard McCarthy Govenlock Irish Protestant Benevolent Society Stephen Dowd McKenty Geraldine O'Loghlin Stanford I. Armand Bombardier Moira Ann Snow Arthur Meighen Patrick Vallely Timothy Edward McIninch Gerard Keyes Sean Treacy

# TWO SPECIAL SUMMER 2018 COURSES IN IRISH STUDIES

#### CONTEMPORARY IRISH FICTION AND THE IRISH LANDSCAPE, JUNE 4 TO JULY 25

Eve Patten, professor, School of English, Trinity College, Dubl and director, MPhil in Irish Writing.

Patten's recent publications include Imperial Refugee: Olivia Manning's Fictions of War (2012) and Ireland, West to East: Irish Cultural Connections with Central and Eastern Europe (2014). Sh is currently editing Volume 5 of the Irish Literature in Transition series for Cambridge University Press, forthcoming in 2018.

The representation of land and landscape has always been central to Irish writing. In modern Irish fiction the representation of Ireland's physical appearance — both rural and urban — continues to be an important means of exploring the national condition. Students will read a range of modern and contemporary Irish writers to see how their work addresses topics such as the changing image of Ireland's western and coastal regions, the depiction of the Irish border area and the reimagining of the Irish city. The course will include visual material and will cover short stories and excerpt of novels from writers such as Anne Enright, John McGahern, Colm Tóibin, Paula Meehan and Kevin Barry.



# **BRIAN O'NEILL GALLERY TUITION AWARDS**

#### THE FOLLOWING STUDENTS **RECEIVED A TOTAL OF \$21,000** IN TUITION REMISSION FOR **THE FALL 2017 SEMESTER:**

## Recipient

Hannah Legault Donivan Bell-Kisiel Alexandra Taylor Grimes Nicole Delacroix Victoria Di Paolo Kayla Williams Erin Hynes Patrick Mairs Kevin Aikman-Carter Patrick Quinn Antonietta Covelli Morgan Kleinsasser Nicola Wilson **Blaise Parsons** 

#### INTRODUCTION TO IRISH VISUAL, MATERIAL AND **DESIGN CULTURE, JULY 3 TO AUGUST 2**

in;	<b>Linda King</b> , Co-Programme Chair, BA (Hons.) in Visual Communication Design, Institute of Art, Design + Technology, Dún Laoghaire, County Dublin
ne	King writes on Irish design as cultural history. She is co-editor of Ireland, Design and Visual Culture: Negotiating Modernity 1922-1992 (2011) and a member of the International Association of Art Critics. She sits on the editorial board of the <i>Canadian Journal of Irish Studies</i> .
ts	This course expands consideration of what constitutes Irish culture in a general sense by focusing on such previously underexplored fields as graphic, fashion, textile, craft, product and industrial design, as well as architecture and advertising. In so doing it demonstrates how "ordinary" objects and images have been — and remain — powerful conduits for political, social and economic discourse, due to their ubiquity and mass appeal. Subjects will include nation building, travel and tourism, individual and national identity, historiography, design professionalization, religiosity, museology and popular music.







# The Canadian Irish Studies Foundation seeks support for students

Help us to empower students to pursue their dreams.

The Canadian Irish Studies Foundation appreciates donations of all amounts. Thank you for your generosity.

**Please note:** It is possible to donate appreciated stocks, bonds and mutual funds and take advantage of the best tax benefits — it is more advantageous to transfer securities directly to the foundation than to liquidate them in order to make a donation. For more information, please call **514-848-2424, ext. 8711**.

### THE GUS O'GORMAN SCHOLARSHIP

The Gus O'Gorman Scholarship fund is almost there. It has now reached \$44,000 towards its goal of \$50,000 to fund a student to enrol in an Irish language course each summer at the National University of Ireland Galway. To donate or learn more, please call **514-848-2424**, **ext. 8711**.

## CANADIAN IRISH STUDIES FOUNDATION FUNDAMENTALS

Executive editor: Michael KenneallyEditor: Howard BokserAssistant editor: Marion MulvennaDesign: Concordia Advancement

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