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SUPPORTING STUDENTS IN CHALLENGING TIMES

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CANADIAN IRISH STUDIES FOUNDATION FUNDAMENTALS

EXECUTIVE EDITOR: Michael Kenneally EDITOR: Ian Harrison MANAGING EDITOR: Marion Mulvenna DESIGN: Trevor Browne

SUPPORTING STUDENTS IN CHALLENGING TIMES

n this pandemic year, the Canadian Irish Studies Foundation (CISF) has provided approximately \$200,000 in scholarships and fee remissions to support students in Irish studies. While Concordia has been impressively flexible throughout the crisis, many students confronted challenges stemming from social isolation, family complications and the shift to online courses.

For some students, CISF support made a crucial difference in their academic performance by alleviating financial anxiety. In this newsletter, we draw attention to a cross-section of students in Irish studies, including several of the 38 students who received scholarships or tuition remission from the Brian O'Neill Gallery Scholarship Fund. Of course, this support is possible only because of the generosity of our donors.

Once again, we sincerely thank our many supporters for their ongoing commitment to students in the School of Irish Studies.

Pamela McGovern Chair, CISF Michael Kenneally Principal, School of Irish Studies

IRISH STUDIES SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



Graduating this spring with a double major in biology and Irish studies, **Victoria Kelly** is planning to work for a year so that she can return to graduate school. She cites her time in the School as "one of the best and most transformative experiences of my life."

"The extraordinary educational benefits I have received are thanks to the generosity of donors, the exceptional dedication of professors and the School's infinitely supportive staff. Not only have I learned about Irish history and culture, but through the multidisciplinary focus of the program I have discovered how Irish issues resonate around the world."

Victoria has benefitted several times from the tuition remission award from the **Brian O'Neill Gallery Scholarship Fund** and has received the **Stephen Dowd Scholarship** and the **Arthur Meighen Scholarship**.



Patrick Brodie is graduating this spring with a PhD in film studies focusing on media infrastructure in the Republic of Ireland since the 2007-2008 global financial crisis.

In the fall, he will take up a Fonds de recherche du Québec – Société et culture (FRQSC) postdoctoral fellowship at McGill University. His work

will involve the political and environmental implications of Brexit on data and energy infrastructures across the border between the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland.

During his studies, Patrick was a recipient of the Irene Mulroney Scholarship.



Raymond Jess recently graduated with a PhD, having completed a thesis on Irish-Canadian intellectual culture between Canadian confederation and Irish independence. Raymond's studies were supported by the **Irene Mulroney Scholarship** and the **St. Patrick's Society Scholarship**.

MARCH DECLARED IRISH HERITAGE MONTH IN CANADA



n March 10, the House of Commons of Canada unanimously adopted a motion to declare the month of March Irish Heritage Month. The motion

was introduced by James Maloney, member of Parliament, Etobicoke—Lakeshore, Ontario, and seconded by Gudie Hutchings, member of Parliament, Long Range Mountains, Newfoundland and Labrador. The motion reads:

"That, in the opinion of the House, the government should recognize the important contribution that Irish-Canadians have made to building Canada, and to Canadian society in general, and should mark the importance of educating and reflecting upon Irish heritage and culture for future generations by declaring the month of March as Irish Heritage Month."

See more at: facebook.com/pg/jamesmaloney.etobicoke/videos

James Maloney is chair of the Irish Parliamentary Friendship



Group, consisting of 70 members of Parliament who work to promote closer relations between Canada and Ireland; he is also chair of the Canada-Ireland Interparliamentary Group, consisting of elected officials who explore ways of cooperating on issues relevant to both

countries. The CISF extends warm congratulations to James Maloney for bringing national attention to the role the Irish have played in the development of all aspects of Canadian society.



After graduating with a master's degree on an Irish topic, **Jessica Poulin** completed a post-graduate certificate in museum management and curatorship.

She has worked for heritage and museum organizations like the Canadian Federation of

Friends of Museums and the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts, and was recently hired by Historica Canada as a bilingual subject editor for *The Canadian Encyclopedia*.

A three-time recipient of the **Irene Mulroney Scholarship**, Jessica credits her experience at the School of Irish Studies with developing her critical thinking and research and writing skills qualifications which allowed her to advance her career.



Lily MacLean is entering her final year of a major in Irish studies and is planning to pursue a master's degree combining her passions for Irish *sean-nós* singing and the Irish language. Her reading of an Irish-language version of the 1916 Easter Proclamation circulated extensively in

Ireland and beyond, to great critical acclaim.

Lily has been awarded both the **D'Arcy McGee Scholarship** and the **United Irish Societies Scholarship** as well as the tuition remission award several times. Last year, she won the special **Gus O'Gorman Scholarship** for summer study in the Gaeltacht, which had to be postponed until travel permits.



Quinn Daley is a second-year undergraduate doing a double major in Irish studies and history who won the **McKenty Scholarship** this year, as well as tuition remission each semester since he started in the program.



Graduating in fall 2021 with a double major in Irish studies and classics, **Esmé Cavanaugh** plans to pursue graduate studies in these areas. Her aim is to build on what she considers to be the extraordinary support, multidisciplinary foundation and mentorship she has received

over the past four years in the School of Irish Studies.

As a very talented singer with an extensive knowledge of Irish songs, Esmé has performed at various events organized at the School. She won the **Moira Ann Snow Scholarship** this past year and has received tuition remission several times.



Eimear Rosato came from Belfast to do a PhD in history, focusing on the impact of intergenerational memory in "post-conflict" North Belfast. The recipient of the **St. Patrick's Society Scholarship** and the **Irene Mulroney Scholarship** was honoured to receive these

forms of recognition, emphasizing that the financial assistance was crucial in helping to pay for tuition, health insurance and rent.

"I would not have been able to continue my studies without the support of generous donors."



Billy Kearns will graduate this spring with a double major in Irish studies and English literature, and he plans to return to Concordia in the fall to do a master's in film studies. He has received the tuition remission award several times.

THE LASTING LEGACY OF BRIAN GALLERY



While the death of Brian O'Neill Gallery in January marked the end of an era for the CISF, it also drew attention to the permanent nature of his accomplishments on behalf of Irish studies at Concordia.

In 1996, Brian Gallery partnered with Peter O'Brien and Michael Kenneally to create the CISF, with the dream of developing Irish studies as an academic discipline at the university. After the success of the initial campaign, Brian served more than 15 years as chair of the CISF and over that period Irish studies took giant steps forward.

Consequently, by the time he stepped down in 2016, a School of Irish Studies had been established as a result of his extraordinary dedication. Annually, it now offers 25 courses in more than a dozen disciplines to approximately 1,000 students. This achievement would not have been possible without Brian's tenacity, indefatigable energy and unwavering commitment to the goal of teaching Irish history and culture, as well as the story of the Irish contribution to the development of all regions of Canada, especially Montreal and Quebec.

To give permanent recognition to Brian's role, the CISF created the Brian O'Neill Gallery Scholarship Fund, which to date has awarded more than \$400,000 to students in Irish studies. To associate Brian's name with this crucial initiative is more than fitting, since it provides current and future generations of students at his beloved alma mater with the opportunity to learn, and, later, share the stories of Ireland and the Irish in Canada. The fund is a crucial means of supporting students in Irish studies, acknowledged Victoria Kelly, one of the School's most engaged students: "I am eternally gratefully for the financial support I received each year of my studies from the fund. Without such assistance, I simply could not have attended university or reduced my part-time work so that I could give appropriate attention to my studies. I am deeply grateful for this unique and extraordinary form of student support."

The following people have honoured Brian's memory with donations to the Brian O'Neill Gallery Scholarship Fund:

Senator W.D. Angus, Barbara Baker, Patrick Belland, Perry and Michael Beverley, Andrew Bolton, Lawrence Boyle, George Brown, Chaussures Tony Inc (Tony and Kathie), John and Pattie Cleghorn and Family, CN Railway courtesy of Sean Finn, Christine and Gorden Cole, Mr. and Mrs. George G. Collins Jr., Peter Cresswell, Raymond Decarie and Michelle Beauregard, Jordan Dermer, Judy and Terry Dingle, Bryce Douglas, Elizabeth Ferrier, John Fix, Marcia Foresman, Tom Godber, Hoyt Goodrich, Richard Hart, Ann Hodes, Andrey Hollinger, Lillian Howick, Geoff Kelley, Susan Kruger, Julie A. L. Lafleur, Sheila T. Ledbetter, Ian March, Liam March, Pamela McGovern, Florence McGrail, Hugh McGuire and the Westmount Rugby Club, Peggy and Michael McMaster, Fred Melling, Howard Merriman Jr., Libero Minotti, Montarsan Holdings Ltd., John Peacock, Billi-Jo Poirier, Lisa Pothier, Sonia Raikes Smith, Patrick Regan and Julie Howick, Michael Richards, Rhona Richman Kenneally and Michael Kenneally, Ann and John Rooney, Margaret Stavert, James P. Streeter, Nancy and Richard Streeter, Susan Sumner, Dominic Taddeo, Edith Truscott, Adam Turner, Lauren Veillette-Miron, Philip & Judith Webster Family Foundation, Beverly Winders, Janice Woodbury.

If you would like to donate, please complete the form at the back of this newsletter or at **concordia.ca/cisf.** Kindly indicate that your donation is in memory of Brian Gallery. We thank you for helping to give permanent acknowledgement to his legacy.

(Irish Studies scholarship recipients continued)



Enrolled in a PhD in history, **Giselle Gonzalez** came from Cuba to study Irish migration to 19thcentury Cuba by examining the interaction of Irish migrants with slavery, issues of racialization, and assimilation into a non-anglophone society.

Giselle express her appreciation to the donors of the **Timothy O'Connor Family Scholarship** and the **Henry Patrick Cullen Scholarship**: "I am deeply grateful to have received your support during this pandemic year. This funding has allowed me to make significant advances on my studies in spite of the difficulties that so many people were facing. When in isolation, researching the lives of 19th-century Irish immigrants to Cuba and Canada allowed me to learn from the past about how to cope with the present."



Enrolled in an interdisciplinary PhD in art history, design, and art education, **Molly-Claire Gillett**'s research focuses on design and lace-making in Ireland during the late-19th and early-20th centuries. She has received several prestigious external scholarships, as well as the **Irish Georgian Society's Desmond Guinness Scholarship**, an honour rarely given to a student at an institution outside of Ireland or the United Kingdom.



Matthew Sanders is graduating this spring with a joint specialization in archaeology and sociology and a major in Irish studies. Matthew, who received the Irish Protestant Benevolent Society Scholarship this year, plans to work for a year and then return to graduate school to pursue a degree in history.

"I have benefitted from the many aspects of the Irish studies major, including the continued mentorship from dedicated professors, fee remissions which came from the generous donors to the CISF and the opportunity to go on academic exchange with the National University of Ireland in Galway, where studying Irish topics from a local perspective gave a new dimension to my education."

During his studies, Matthew was awarded the Arthur Meighen Scholarship and the Patrick Vallely Scholarship.



Máirtín Coilféir

Máirtín Coilféir's edited collection of essays, *An Scéim: An Gúm 1926-2016*, has just been published (An Gúm, 2021). The volume examines varied Irish-language publications produced by the state government since independence, and it

features contributions from noted scholars and writers such as Gearóid Ó Tuathaigh, Michael Cronin, Alan Titley and Aifric Mac Aodha.

In the January edition of *Book Arts Canada*, Máirtín was interviewed about his letterpress poetry book *Cumhdach*, wrapped in vellum using traditional binding techniques and published by the Kelly Library at the University of Toronto.

In April, Máirtín presented a research seminar at the National University of Ireland, Maynooth, on a waylaid Irish translation of *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, written in the 1930s by Waterford author Nioclás Tóibín.

New poetry by Máirtín will appear in the spring edition of *Poetry Ireland/Éigse Éireann* and his translations of Doireann Ní Ghríofa's work will soon be published in *The Dalhousie Review*.



Gavin Foster

Gavin Foster has published a chapter on the Irish Civil War and its memory in *Kerry: History and Society.* The volume, edited by former Peter O'Brien Visiting Scholar Maurice Bric, is the latest in Geography Publications' prestigious County History and Society series.

Gavin will have an essay on Liam Mellows in the Royal Irish Academy's forthcoming publication, *Ireland 1922: Independence, Partition, Civil War*, and he has been selected to contribute to a special issue of *Contemporary European History* on the Irish revolutionary period.

With the centenary of the Irish Civil War looming, Gavin is busy with other commemorative events and projects. This includes a live talk this spring for a webinar hosted by the University of St. Thomas (Texas) for "A Farther Shore: American Reflections on the Advent of Irish Independence (1921-1922)," an event series initiated by the Embassy of Ireland and the American Conference of Irish Studies (ACIS).



Jane McGaughey

The Ireland-Canada University Foundation has awarded Jane a D'Arcy McGee Beacon Fellowship to host Julie Rodgers, assistant professor, National University Ireland, with the aim of deepening ties between the two universities. Julie will give an online public lecture exploring motherhood in contemporary Quebec and Ireland on Wednesday, May 26. She will also hold a series of online workshops with Irish studies graduate and undergraduate students in the spring and autumn.

Jane has contributed the concluding chapter for a special issue of *Irish Studies Review*, to be published this spring, focusing on "Irish Revolutionary Masculinities." In January, she began a five-year term as holder of the Johnson Chair in Canadian and Quebec Irish Studies.



Gearóid Ó hAllmhuráin

The School of Irish Studies is looking forward to welcoming Margaret Brehony from the National University of Ireland, Galway to work with Gearóid on a comparative study of Irish immigration to Quebec and Cuba in the 19th

century. Margaret is the second Marie Curie Scholar to work at the School of Irish Studies in recent years; the Marie Curie Scholarship is the highest academic honor granted to university researchers by the European Union.

Gearóid recently contributed an article on Irish-American stage icon Gracie Allen to *The Lost Letters of Flann O'Brien*, (The Pen & Pencil Gallery, 2021). His documentary, *Lost Children of the Carricks*, will represent Ireland and Canada at the 2022 Ethnografilm festival in Paris. It will also be screened as the main feature at the Irish Film Festival in Ottawa in September.



Emer O'Toole

Emer's forthcoming book, *Contemporary Irish Theatre: Activist Aesthetics*, has been accepted for publication by Routledge, while the rights to her 2015 book, *Girls Will Be Girls*, has been acquired by an Italian feminist publisher.

A book chapter on theatrical representations of gender and Afghanistan will appear in the forthcoming collection, *Theatres of War*, and a chapter on living under the Eighth Amendment of the Constitution of Ireland has been accepted for an anthology on transitional justice.

Emer gave a performance lecture on "Irish Feminism and the Figure of the Virgin" for St Brigid's Day Festival Vancouver in February, and took part in a virtual fireside chat for International Women's Day organized by the Embassy of Ireland, Canada. Her opinion piece on the Mother and Baby Homes report appeared recently in *The Independent*; another, "Irish feminists must avoid British trap of transphobia," was published in *The Irish Times* in March.

EXCITING COMMUNITY NEWS



Black Rock Montreal Irish Monument Park Foundation, Inc



Plans for Black Rock memorial progress

For well over a decade, volunteers with the Montreal Irish Memorial Park Foundation have worked long hours and overcome many challenges to commemorate the 6,000 Irish Famine immigrants buried near the Black Rock site in the city's Sud-Ouest neighbourhood.

Recently, plans to honour these typhus victims with a world-class memorial have taken positive steps forward. This large-scale and ambitious project has been accelerated by support from Hydro-Québec and the municipal government.

For more on the extraordinary work that Victor Boyle, Fergus Keyes and others have done, and the current state of this worthwhile initiative, visit the Black Rock Memorial channel on YouTube.

CISF supports Irish book collection at Concordia

In response to a request from the Concordia Library, the CISF has provided \$5,000 to strengthen the Irish book collection. The CISF is very pleased to expand educational opportunities for students and — at a time of ever-increasing costs for materials — to partner in the ongoing development of this valuable resource.

(Irish Studies scholarship recipients continued)



Rachel Emond, this year's winner of the Geraldine O'Loghlin Stanford Scholarship, is currently enrolled in the Public History Honours program and is pursuing a major in Irish studies.

"I cannot thank the School of Irish Studies enough for the tuition remission award! I am incredibly honoured and very grateful, not only to the donors for making this possible, but also to the kind staff at the School for their advice and guidance, and the exceptional professors for always encouraging students to do their best."



The recipient of the **Buddy O'Connor Family** Scholarship in Irish Studies, **Sólveig Hanson** is completing a master's degree in history.

"In such an unusual and challenging year, this generous gift has allowed me to continue to

research and write my thesis on pre-modern Irish medicine and midwifery. I extend my deepest gratitude to the donors who helped create this scholarship."



Angela Bruni graduated several years ago from Concordia and still believes that the foundation she received in the School of Irish Studies helped prepare her for a career in copywriting and marketing. While at Concordia, Angela received several awards, including the **D'Arcy McGee Scholarship**.



Thien An Kay Nguyen, a third-year student, is doing a double major in Irish studies and sociology. A recipient of several tuition remission awards, Kay appreciates the handson role his professors have played in helping him to develop his research, critical analysis and

essay-writing skills. He prides himself on being an ambassador for Irish studies.



Christopher Neeson, a double major student in Irish studies and urban studies, is especially appreciative of his tuition remission award.

"I have been a part of the School of Irish Studies for less than a year, and I cannot ask for a better

experience. Whether it is learning about the journey that my ancestors experienced while coming from Ireland or how the Irish prospered in Canada, I have learned so much in so little time. The professors and staff at the School have done an outstanding job and I am thankful for all of their assistance."



Erin Dunlop will graduate this spring with a double major in Irish studies and English literature, and is this year's winner of the Fr. Shaun Gerard McCarthy Govenlock Scholarship. She previously won the Matthew Hamilton Gault and Irish Protestant

Benevolent Society scholarships, as well as the tuition remission award several times. Beginning in 2022, she is hoping to pursue graduate studies focusing on the intersections of literature, performance and activism in contemporary Ireland.

NEW TRUSTEES JOIN CISF



A t a recent meeting of the CISF, chair Pamela McGovern welcomed three new trustees as part of the ongoing consolidation of the board:



Ken Anderson

A native of County Offaly and a member of Chartered Accountants Ireland, Ken Anderson is Senior Vice-President, Investor Relations and Corporate Development, at Intact Financial Corporation in Montreal.

Ken left Ireland in 1996 and has since amassed progressive finance experience within the insurance sector. He spent 10 years working in insurance in Bermuda before relocating to Montreal in 2006. His career at Intact began in 2007.

Ken assumed his current role in January 2020, and is responsible for all aspects of shareholder engagement at Intact as well as guiding mergers and acquisitions. Ken led the company's recently announced \$5.2-billion acquisition of RSA's operations in Canada, the U.K., Ireland and the Middle East.

Ken holds an Executive MBA in financial services and insurance, a program jointly provided by Vlerick Business School (Belgium) and the University of St. Gallen (Switzerland).



Mary Gallery

Mary Gallery is a dedicated, civicminded volunteer and active member of the community. She was elected to Westmount City Council in November 2017 and holds the office of Commissioner of Library, Culture, Sports and Recreation.

Mary is a member of the board of the St. Mary's Hospital Foundation, the Women's Canadian Club of Montreal and the Brome Lake Land Foundation. Professionally, Mary spent many years as a senior recruiter at several of Canada's largest executive-search firms. She attended Collège Jean-de-Brébeuf, earned a BA in political science from the University of Western Ontario, and a French second-language graduate certificate from Université Laval.



Camille O'Carroll

Camille O'Carroll was born and raised in Montreal. Camille is half-Irish, with family living in Ireland. She attended Collège André-Grasset and graduated from Université de Sherbrooke with a degree in civil law in 2013. She has been a member of the Bar of Quebec since 2015.

Camille began her career at Caisse de dépôt et placement du Québec as an articling student. She now serves as legal counsel with the institutional investor, where her main focus is to help the infrastructure and private-equity teams with transactions in the Americas.

ADDITIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED TO IRISH STUDIES STUDENTS

Because of space limitations, not all scholarships to students could be included. In addition to those mentioned throughout the newsletter, other recent awards were:

Scholarship and Recipient

| Fr. Thomas Daniel McEntee Scholarship | Hugh Deasy |
|---------------------------------------|------------------|
| J. Armand Bombardier Scholarship | Sarah Bissonette |
| Loyola Scholarship | Kayla Fanning |
| Timothy Edward McIninch Scholarship | Alex-Ann Adams |
| Patrick Murray Scholarship | Brendan Ryan |



| Gerard Keyes Scholarship | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Sean Treacy Scholarship | (|
| Patrick Vallely Scholarship | ŀ |
| Stephen Dowd Scholarship | [|
| | |

Victoria DiPaolo Chelsea Lacasse-Gobeille Autumn Darey Donivan Bell-Kisiel



CAMPAIGN PLEDGE FROM POWER CORPORATION OF CANADA

ANNIVERSARY **CAMPAIGN MOVES CLOSER TO** \$500,000 GOAL

ontreal's Power Corporation of Canada is donating \$100,000 over four years to the anniversary campaign of the CISF. The request was supported by CISF trustee Eoin Ó hÓgáin, a Power Corporation vice-president.

Both Pamela McGovern and Michael Kenneally have expressed their sincere appreciation to the donations committee for its support of Irish studies and its faith in the mandate of the School to teach successive generations of students about the rich legacy of the Irish heritage, at home and abroad.

With the Power Corporation donation, as well as several large donations from foundations and generous individuals, the campaign has now reached \$330,000. Once invested, these funds will help to increase support to students and the development of the School.



If you would like to help us reach our goal, please consider contributing, no matter how modest an amount. Meanwhile, we express our sincere appreciation to all those who have already donated; your ongoing generosity has been crucial to the success of the School of Irish Studies.

Thank you. Go raibh maith agaibh go léir.

Pamela McGovern Chair: CISF

Michael Kenneally

Michael Kenneally Principal, School of Irish Studies

The Canadian Irish Studies Foundation counts on your support to help students



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