Keough-Naughton Sponsored Royal Irish Academy Conference

The Keough-Naughton Institute for Irish Studies sponsored a number of events in Dublin in connection with the Emerald Isle Classic football game. The O'Connell House was the venue for Northwestern University Professor T.H. Breen's lecture titled “Tipping Points: Reflections on the American and Irish Revolutions.” Additionally at O'Connell House, Kevin Whelan, Smurfit Director of the Keough-Notre Dame Study Centre in Dublin, presented the Hibernian Lecture co-sponsored by the Cushwa Center for the Study of American Catholicism on “Notre Dame: The Irish Connections.”

At Trinity College, the Keough-Naughton Institute presented a panel discussion concerning “Ireland in Transition: Contemporary Challenges and Opportunities.”

Special points of interest:
- Irish World Music
- Sonic Hospitality
- A Unique Insight into the Institute’s Influence
- Joyce Scholarship
- World Class Scholars and Fellows

Inside this issue:

Mícheál Ó Súilleabháin, Patrick B. O'Donnell Distinguished Visiting Professor
Helen Phelan, Herbert Allen and Donald Keough Visiting Faculty Fellow
John Kelly, Distinguished Donald Keough Visiting Professor
Cathal Goan, Distinguished Visiting Naughton Professor
Declan Kiberd, Donald and Marilyn Keough Professor of Irish Studies
Malcolm Sen, National Endowment for the Humanities Faculty Fellow 2012-2013
Katherine O’Callaghan, Irish Research Council Government of Ireland Post Doctoral Fellow
A trip to Ireland’s Edge

The Keough-Naughton Institute for Irish Studies is a sponsored event featuring notable Irish scholars, including Keough-Naughton Fellows Seamus Deane, Briona Nic Diarmaida, Cathal Goan and Robert Schmuhl. Additionally, the conference on the 1916 Rising titled “1916 What It Means—Historical Contexts, Cultural Reproduction, Irish Culture, Irish Society,” featured many notable Irish scholars, including Keough-Naughton Fellows Seamus Deane, Briona Nic Diarmaida, Cathal Goan and Robert Schmuhl.
Irish World Music Comes to the Keough-Naughton Institute for Irish Studies

Mícheál Ó Súilleabháin, Patrick B. O’Donnell Distinguished Visiting Professor

The art of Irish music in various forms was one of the overarching themes at the Keough-Naughton Institute this fall. From the work of two extraordinary musicians and scholars, Helen Phelan and Mícheál Ó Súilleabháin, professors at Irish World Academy of Music and Dance at the University of Limerick, to explorations of song and music in Irish literature, and classes on Irish song tradition, Keough-Naughton Fellows explored and presented their expertise to the Notre Dame community.

Mícheál Ó Súilleabháin, the Patrick B. O’Donnell Distinguished Visiting Professor and artist in residence at Notre Dame, is an Irish musician, composer, performer, writer and educator. He pursued two objectives this fall at Notre Dame. A towering figure in the incorporation of the Irish traditional art forms of dance and music into higher education, Ó Súilleabháin brings his vision of integrating music studies into the tapestry of Irish study to Keough-Naughton. Ó Súilleabháin established the Irish World Academy of Music and Dance in 1994 at the University of Limerick to provide a place where traditional Irish art forms could be studied and performed with the same validity as classical music and dance. Similarly, the Academy values performance equally with academic study, seeking to build students who are performer scholars and reflective practitioners of the arts. Ó Súilleabháin articulated this viewpoint throughout his time here and presented a lecture titled “The Most Celebrated Irish Tunes: A recital-lecture on the first published collection of Irish Music—Neal’s A Collection of the Most Celebrated Irish Tunes (Dublin 1724).”

Commissioned by the Keough-Naughton Institute and the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center to write a musical composition to be performed in 2014 at the Center’s 10th anniversary celebration, Ó Súilleabháin is working on a piece using a text written by Irish poet Seamus Heaney titled The Cure at Troy. A work in process, Ó Súilleabháin finds “it can be bad luck to talk too much about the creative process!”

Helen Phelan, Herbert Allen and Donald Keough Visiting Faculty Fellow

Dr. Phelan is the Assistant Director of Irish World Academy of Music and Dance and Director of the Ph.D. program in Arts Practice at the University of Limerick. Her time with Keough-Naughton has afforded her the opportunity to focus on ritual studies and performance studies, her primary research interests. Dr. Phelan concentrates on liturgical music, with an interest in the musical tradition within a global context. She is working on new material she tentatively calls “Sonic Hospitality,” exploring how music is used in immigrant communities to create a sense of belonging and connection—a musical welcome. Dr. Phelan continues to prepare chapters for the Oxford Ritual Studies Series, edited by Robert Grimes and published by Oxford University Press.

She welcomes the opportunity provided by Keough-Naughton Fellowship to “build and strengthen relationships and the connections between Irish Studies and the Irish,” and applauds the Institute’s vision to include the arts, film and media under the umbrella of Irish Studies, as she finds these mediums are “unique in their expressions of Irishness.”
The Keough-Naughton Institute for Irish Studies again welcomed John Kelly as Distinguished Donald Keough Visiting Professor from his post as Senior Research Fellow at St. John’s College, Oxford University. Professor Kelly has a unique insight into the growth of the Keough-Naughton Institute. From his initial visit to the Keough Institute in 1999 and subsequent returns, Professor Kelly found the Institute’s growth impressive. He marveled at its “excellent reputation, the impact it has on Irish Studies in the United States and Dublin in such a short time.” He finds the Institute is “even better every time.” Regarded as a premier Yeats scholar, Professor Kelly taught the undergraduate class this fall “W.B. Yeats and the Consciousness of an Age,” which explores how Yeats embodies the history of his time, commenting on his influence on Irish literature and comparing his work with contemporary European literature. Capitalizing on his 38 years of teaching at St. John’s College, he presented a lecture at Notre Dame called “Yeats on the Cusp.” Professor Kelly is currently working on the fifth volume of the celebrated edition of The Collected Letters of W.B. Yeats, published by Oxford University Press. His time was spent tracking down, interpreting and editing the over 8000 letters written by Yeats and all accompanying correspondence. Professor Kelly notes that adding to the challenge of locating the letters is Yeats’ poor handwriting and his lack of interest in dating correspondence!

John Kelly, Distinguished Donald Keough Visiting Professor

Professor Goan’s association with the Institute began when he was invited to give a presentation at the 2006 “WHY IRISH?” seminar about his experience establishing Ireland’s first Irish language television network. The Keough-Naughton Institute is pleased to continue that early association as Goan brings a unique perspective into Irish broadcasting and journalism having spent a career in high profile positions at RTÉ, culminating in a six year term as the head of Ireland’s National Public Service Broadcaster. He was appointed Adjunct Professor in the School of Irish Language, Celtic Studies, Irish Folklore and Linguistics at University College Dublin in 2011 in recognition of a lifelong involvement with Irish music. Goan brings both of these experiences to Notre Dame this semester. He delivered a lecture exploring a traumatic incident in Irish journalism titled “Getting the story right – and the price of getting it wrong: Ethics and Regulation in Contemporary Irish Journalism.” Goan is continuing his work on a television series documentary on the 1916 Rising in collaboration with Briona Nic Dhiarmada, Thomas J. & Kathleen O’Donnell Chair of Irish Language & Literature and Concurrent Professor of Film, Television, and Theatre for Notre Dame, and Professor Christopher Fox, Director of the Keough-Naughton Institute. In addition, Goan is teaching an undergraduate “Introduction to the Irish Song Tradition” which explores the form and magic of Irish song. Goan finds the Keough-Naughton Institute to be an “extraordinarily generous and supportive institution with its resources, sense of purpose and emphasis on learning’s sake.”

Cathal Goan, Distinguished Visiting Naughton Professor
Declan Kiberd, Donald and Marilyn Keough Professor of Irish Studies and Professor of English continues his tradition of scholarship and interest in making James Joyce’s work accessible to all through many activities these past months. When Professor Kiberd arrived at Notre Dame, many noted his mantle as “Ireland’s foremost intellectual” and the influence his presence would have here on Irish Studies. There is new evidence of this as two former doctoral students, Malcolm Sen and Katherine O’Callaghan, are current Keough-Naughton Fellows. Professor Kiberd is building his base of scholars here as well as he teaches a class this semester on James Joyce which examines Joyce’s claim that “To read any of my work you must read all of it.” Professor Kiberd notes that with the presence of scholars Barry McCrea, Keough Family College Professor of Irish Studies, Susan Cannon Harris, Associate Professor of English, and Joseph Buttigieg, William R. Kenan Jr. Professor of English, he has “no doubt Keough-Naughton is the center of Joyce Studies and comparative Irish literature.”

In addition to teaching, Professor Kiberd was invited to participate in a six part series titled “James Joyce and Me” produced by Irish National Radio where he led a discussion with prominent Irish writers and scholars, exploring the importance of James Joyce to Irish life. One featured guest was Katherine O’Callaghan, who spoke of Joyce’s love of music and use of music in his works. Declan and Katherine collaborated again in a work for the BBC Radio 4 called “James Joyce’s Playlist” – compiling music from his books, including operas, ballads and musicals. Building on interest in Joyce around the world, Professor Kiberd was invited to write the introduction to a new translation of Ulysses into Portuguese.

In Dublin for events surrounding the Emerald Isle Classic, Professor Kiberd sat on the Keough-Naughton Institute panel: “Ireland in Transition: Contemporary Challenges and Opportunities” at Trinity College. He also will give a lecture at Notre Dame in November asking “Was Samuel Beckett a Mystic?”

Professor Kiberd will teach this spring semester at O’Connell House.
Malcolm Sen, National Endowment for the Humanities Faculty Fellow 2012-2013

Dr. Sen comes to the Keough-Naughton Institute for Irish Studies from the National University of Ireland, Galway. A native of India, Dr. Sen earned his M.A. in Anglo-Irish literature and a Ph.D. from University College Dublin, Ireland where he explored Orientalism and Irish Modernism under the direction of Declan Kiberd. The NEH fellowship permits him to research and write a book comparing twentieth century literature from Ireland and India to explore their ecocritical and environmental themes. Dr. Sen has authored numerous papers and articles examining colonialism’s impact on India and Ireland and each country’s literary response. Dr. Sen notes he received great assistance for his work from the materials on India and environmental policies found in the Hesburgh Library and the Keough-Naughton Institute. He applauds the Institute’s to attract top scholars to speak, including Rob Nixon, a world renowned scholar of post-colonial environmental comparative literature, giving him the unmatched opportunity to work with individuals who are leading his field of study. Dr. Sen was accompanied to Notre Dame by his wife, Katherine O’Callaghan, another Fellow in the Institute, and their two children. Each expressed their appreciation for the “wonderful welcome, the generosity of the Fellows of the Institute and the warm social relationships extended.”

Katherine O’Callaghan, Irish Research Council Government of Ireland Post-Doctoral Fellow

Katherine O’Callaghan, a Fellow in the Institute, and an Irish Research Council Government of Ireland Post-Doctoral Fellow at Trinity College Dublin, is expanding on her doctoral studies exploring Music and the Irish Novel from 1890 to the present. Like Dr. Sen, Dr. O’Callaghan studied with Declan Kiberd at University College Dublin, receiving a Ph.D. in Anglo-Irish Literature and Drama. A frequent lecturer and author, Dr. O’Callaghan currently is composing a book length examination of the use of music, musical allusions and musical form, by Irish authors such as James Joyce, Samuel Beckett, Joseph Ó’Connor, Roddy Doyle and Claire Kilroy. She looks to center her work on *Finnegans Wake*, and examine how music is utilized to express the “Irishness” of the novel. She is taking advantage of the world famous O’Neill Collection of Traditional Irish Music, part of the Hesburgh Library’s rare books and special collections, which is composed of over 1000 volumes relating to Irish Studies. The collection includes first editions of O’Neill’s own works, notably *The Music of Ireland*, now a classic in the field.
“This is how every class should be taught!”

Professor Tara MacLeod and Keough–Naughton Fellow

Sponsored by the R. C. Sweetman Fund and a grant from Arts and Letters Teaching Beyond the Classroom Fund, twelve students in Professor MacLeod’s travel class “Ireland’s Edge,” spent Fall Break in the Aran Islands experiencing first hand the culture of Ireland’s Gaeltacht districts, areas along the West Coast where Irish is spoken. Combining the study of music, history, politics, marine culture, folklore and archeology the students began their journey in the classroom learning about island culture. Once in Ireland, the students spent seven days exploring the culture, topography, sights and sounds of island life. “Everything made sense,” noted Professor MacLeod, learning was “made tangible and visible. This is how every class should be taught!”

Keough-Naughton Institute for Irish Studies  ■  University of Notre Dame
422 Flanner Hall  ■  Notre Dame, Indiana 46556
irishstudies.nd.edu

Margaret M. Lloyd
Communications and Media
574-631-6250
lloyd.23@nd.edu