

Walsh Visa Participants Celebrate 3rd Annual President's Club Dinner



On September 26th, Walsh Visa participants and Ireland Institute staff gathered for the annual celebration dinner in honor of those participants who have reached the first anniversary of their arrival in the United States. The dinner provides participants time to gather together to recognize their achievement, reflect on their accomplishments, and share a bit of “craic!” Congratulations to this year’s inductees.

Welcome 2004-2005 Rooney Fellow

Gary Rice, the 2004-2005 Rooney Fellow, hails from Dublin Road, Newry. He is a second-year student at Newry Institute of Further and Higher Education.

While in the U.S., Gary will take business courses at the University of Pittsburgh and complete marketing internships with Heinz USA and the Pittsburgh Steelers.

We were fortunate to have Gary spend a few weeks at the Ireland Institute prior to his internship at Heinz. We greatly appreciate everything that he did while he was here.



Thanks to our Interns

The Institute would like to thank our summer interns, Yuri Castillo from Duquesne University and Moira Nee from Indiana University of Pennsylvania, for all of their hard work. We wish them the best of luck in their future endeavors.

Also, a warm welcome is extended to our fall semester interns, Brittany Rexroad and Amanda Fritz. Brittany is a junior at Duquesne University. Amanda is a senior at Carlow University.



Maiden of the Mournes Contest Crowns Pittsburgh Maiden

Pittsburgh-area resident Laura Allison was chosen on August 14th as the winner of this year's International Maiden of the Mournes contest in Warrenpoint, County Down. Laura was the first American Maiden to be crowned Maiden of the Mournes.

The Maiden of the Mournes Festival and related festivities encompass an entire week in the town of Warrenpoint. Laura spent August 6th through August 17th in Northern Ireland. During her stay, she visited with various community groups around Warrenpoint, traveled to Belfast to meet with the Lord Mayor, met the Lord Mayor and City Council of Newry and Mourne, visited local retirement facilities, and attended events such as a beautiful baby contest.

Thirteen international maidens entered this year's competition. Organizers held a talent competition in which competitors sang, danced, or played instruments. Additionally, Maidens were interviewed in front of panel of judges by a local television personality. As the 2004 Maiden, Laura is currently arranging for members of the Newry and Mourne District Council to visit Pittsburgh. Also, she will attend next year's Festival to hand over the crown to the 2005 Maiden.

Host Families Needed for 2005

We continue to seek Host Families for our 2005 International Fund for Ireland Wider Horizons Programs. Families are needed to host program participants over a four or eight week period. Participants intern at various locations four days per week, and attend classes at Duquesne University one day per week. If you are interested, please visit our website at www.iiofpitt.org or call our offices at 412-394-3900 for more information.

Host Families are asked to:

1. Provide a private bedroom for one young person
2. Provide bed linens for this single room
3. Provide meals daily per household routine
4. Assist in orientation to public transportation
5. Provide access to laundry facilities
6. Facilitate interaction with fellow participants, fellow host families, group supervisor, and Ireland Institute staff
7. Accept a modest stipend
8. Make a difference!



Thanks To All Those Who Visited Us at the 2004 Pittsburgh Irish Festival

Thanks to everyone who visited us at our booth at this year's Irish Festival, and to all who so graciously contributed to the collection at the Gaelic Mass, which went to support the work of the Institute.

Walsh Visa Program Needs Your Support

While the US government and Congress deal with the Iraq war, Afghanistan and other hot spots around the world, legislation to extend the Walsh Visa Program awaits review. We are hopeful passage will occur soon after the Presidential election.

We are asking readers and other Ireland Institute of Pittsburgh supporters to phone, write, email or talk directly to their U.S. Senators and members of the Senate Foreign Relations committee to support bill **H.R. 2655**, extending the Walsh Visa, officially known as the "Irish Peace Process Cultural and Training Program." This bill will allow the Ireland Institute of Pittsburgh to continue to serve the most disadvantaged populations of Ireland, North and South.

Contact information

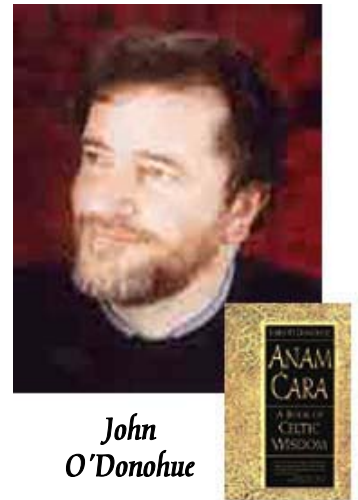
Senate Foreign Relations Committee: Majority Phone (202) 224-465; Minority Phone (202) 224-3953

Senator Rick Santorum: Pittsburgh Office, (412) 562-0533 E-mail form available at <http://santorum.senate.gov/>

Senator Arlen Specter: Pittsburgh Office, (412) 644-3400 E-mail: arlen_specter@specter.senate.gov

John O'Donohue: 2005 Mel Madden Memorial Lecture

The 2005 Mel Madden Memorial Lecture will feature John O'Donohue. Fr. O'Donohue will speak on February 23, 2005. Author of the best-selling *Anam Cara: A Book of Celtic Wisdom*, *Echoes of Memory*, *Eternal Echoes: Exploring Our Yearning to Belong*, and *Beauty*, John O'Donohue is a poet, priest, philosopher and scholar from Connemara, Ireland. Born and raised in County Clare, he was awarded a Ph.D. in Philosophical Theology from the German University of Tubingen in 1990. Arrangements for the appearance of John O'Donohue made through BigSpeak!, Santa Barbara CA, www.BigSpeak.com. Please watch your mailbox for more details.



*John
O'Donohue*

The Mel Madden Memorial Lecture Series honors the memory of Dr. Mel Madden. Co-founder of the Institute in 1989, Mel spent his life promoting peace and mutual understanding in the global community. He was responsible for the design and curriculum of the Ireland Institute's very successful mutual understanding program and touched the lives of over 1,000 participants from Ireland and Northern Ireland during his ten years with the Institute.

Common Ground: the Institute Launches a New E-Publication

The Institute is pleased to announce the launch of a new "e-publication," *Common Ground*. This publication is aimed at readers in the tri-state (PA, WV, OH) area with an interest in Ireland, North and South. The *Common Ground* will focus on news about Northern Ireland and the Republic, cultural events in the tri-state area, and commentary from vital voices on issues aligned with the mission of the Ireland Institute.

If you are interested in signing up to receive this new publication, please send an email including your name and return email address, to info@iiofpitt.org, or call the Institute at 412-394-3900.

Update on Sr. Michele O'Leary

You will be delighted to hear that Sr. Michele O'Leary's health continues to improve. Michele has spent the past two years fighting and beating cancer. The fight continues and your prayers are her preferred weapons. You can send your best wishes to Michele via mail to the Ireland Institute of Pittsburgh, 425 Sixth Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15219, or via email to moleary@iiofpitt.org. She looks forward to hearing from you.



Please Join Us for Our Christmas Concert

The Ireland Institute will hold a Christmas Concert on Thursday, December 9, 2004 at Kresge Theater on the Carlow University campus in Oakland. Take some time out of your hectic holiday schedule to join us for a relaxed, enchanting evening as we explore Christmas celebrations of Ireland, North and South. Details inside!

Ireland Institute of Pittsburgh
Regional Enterprise Tower
425 Sixth Avenue, Suite 300
Pittsburgh, PA 15219

If you would like to support the important work of the Ireland Institute of Pittsburgh in its mission of reconciliation in Northern Ireland and economic development throughout all of Ireland you can do so by making gifts of time or money. For more information on how to contribute or how to become involved with our work as a volunteer or host family, please call 412-394-3900. Ask to speak to Jim Lamb or visit our website at www.iiofpitt.org.

To designate your United Way gift for the Ireland Institute of Pittsburgh, please mark **4534** on your United Way pledge form.





*You are cordially invited to an evening of music, dance,
and spoken word entertainment at the*

Ireland Institute of Pittsburgh Christmas Concert

A celebration of the Christmas Season in the traditions of Ireland, North and South

***Carlow University, Kresge Theater
Thursday, December 9, 2004***

***Concert begins at 7:00pm
Refreshments to be served following the concert***

Tickets are \$20

For more information, please contact the Institute at 412-394-3900.

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Please detach and return to:

***Ireland Institute of Pittsburgh
425 Sixth Avenue, Suite 300
Pittsburgh, PA 15219***

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Number of Attendees: _____

I cannot attend, but please accept my donation of _____, enclosed.