

Irish & Irish American Studies

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Dancing at Lughnasa and Reception



On February 23rd, I&IA Studies held its first official event: a reception following the Theatre Department's Center Stage production of *Dancing at Lughnasa*. Nearly 80 friends of Irish Studies swelled the crowd. From the set design to the music to the acting, CofC students did a great job with Brian Friel's play, and this, the first collaboration with the Old Vic Theatre in Bristol, England, contributed much to Charleston's cultural scene. Afterward, local community members enjoyed drinks, light food, and great conversation in the beautiful setting of the Towell Library on the Cistern Yard and were introduced to faculty who teach Irish-related courses at CofC. Ellie Jos of the band Castle Crossing played wonderful fiddle music through the evening.

New Community Calendar

Our website has added a new Google Calendar that can serve as a one-stop place to find out about all of the Irish-related goings on around town. Find the Calendar on our website, and as it starts filling up with events, you'll want to get in the habit of visiting it regularly.

If you have an event you'd like us to list--a band playing at your pub, a meeting for your organization, a social you're organizing, a lecture or anything else--contact Joe Kelly. Right now, we have over a 100 subscribers you can reach through our website, and the list is growing all the time. We at CofC hope that the Irish and Irish American Studies will help keep Tri-County residents informed about any up-coming events.

Progress on the Minor

The foundation of I&IA Studies will be the undergraduate minor, which will enable students to explore Irish and Irish American subjects from a variety of disciplines: anthropology, history, language and culture. We'll also help students to study for a summer or semester in Ireland. The Exploratory Committee will finish a proposal this spring, and early in the Fall semester that proposal will start winding its way through the intestines of the bureaucracy. We hope to enroll our first cohort of students in the Fall of 2015.

J. M. Synge, pictured below, produced the masterpiece of Dublin's Abbey Theatre in 1907: *Playboy of the Western World*. Audiences rioted in Dublin and Boston. Some hailed the play as Ireland's entrance to the international stage, while others--especially Nationalists--scorned its "libel" on Irish womanhood. See the play at 7:30, 20-22 March at the South of Broadway Theater in North Charleston. Tickets will be available at the door.





To recognize Irish Heritage Month (the month of March), members of the Ancient Order of Hibernians (Bill Ferrara and Jim Nettles) and the SC Irish Historical Society (Lenny Branch) raise the tricolor flag of the Republic over Castle Pinckney in Charleston harbor. The flag salutes all who come over the waters this month. Thanks to the Sons of Confederate Veterans, who own the island, for inviting the Irish to celebrate the tricolor.

St. Patrick's Day Parade

Lenny Branch, president of the Irish Historical Society, invited us to march in the St. Patrick's Day Parade. Joe Kelly and Stephen White attended Mass at St. Pat's and then marched between Charleston's and Goose Creek's divisions of the Ancient Order of Hibernians. Carrying our new banner between us, we held our umbrellas at cunning angles to keep our faces dry. Not much else escaped the more-cunning rain, which came sprinting down cold and sideways at every intersection. Joe Riley enjoyed the parade from the inside of car, but we with "banner duty" had to face the elements. Though the crowd was thin, remarkably there was a crowd, and it saw this early announcement of Irish and Irish American Studies at CofC. Lots of people seemed interested. Luckily, the Parade Program, which includes our full-page ad, circulated widely before the day of rain.



Irish and Irish American Studies

Irish Studies now consists of hope, prayer, and a banner! Eight feet of pride, the banner will announce us in parades, study-abroad fairs, days at which we advertise majors and minors, etc.

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