LIMERICK 2000

The 38th Annual Meeting of ACIS will be held at the University of Limerick, June 26-July 1, 2000. Papers and presentations in all disciplines relevant to Irish studies are welcome. Though no theme has been selected, inevitably the year 2000 will give rise to a “backward look” appraisal of current activity and some predictions. Individual and panel proposals should be sent to Nancy Curtain, Dept. of History, Fordham University, Bronx, NY 10458. E-mail: curtin@murray.fordham.edu. Phone: (718) 817-3931. Fax: (718) 817-4680. Individual proposals should include a one-page abstract (up to 250 words) highlighting the paper’s argument and methodology. Panel proposals should include a cover letter explaining the theme of the session and the role of each panelist in elucidating the theme, along with the one-page abstracts. In the case of roundtable proposals, abstracts from each participant are not required. Submit abstracts by September 30, 1999, including mailing and e-mail addresses, phone and fax numbers. All participants must be current ACIS members. Registration fees will be IR£135 (IR£100 for graduate students), with an additional IR£25 for the banquet.

For inquiries regarding the site and accommodations, contact the conference organizer: Liam Ó Dochartaigh, ACIS 2000, University of Limerick, Limerick, Ireland. Phone: 353-61-202322. E-mail: liam.odochartaigh@ul.ie Fax: 353-61-202556. Further information, including names of plenary speakers, will be included in the Winter Newsletter.

Limerick and the Shannon Region

Limerick is a vibrant city of considerable historic and literary interest. Founded by the Vikings in the 10th century, it is Ireland’s oldest chartered city. An ambitious program of restoration and urban renewal has been implemented in recent years restoring historical structures and successfully blending new buildings with old. Limerick lies at the heart of the Shannon Region in Ireland’s mid-west, a region which offers spectacular landscape, heritage attractions, leisure activities and cultural pursuits.

University of Limerick

Established in 1972, the University of Limerick on the Plassey estate just 2 miles from the City, quickly gained a reputation among Irish universities for innovation in the design and delivery of its courses, excellence in academic standards and relevance to the needs of the developing Irish economy, particularly in the area of advanced technology and in the context of Ireland’s membership in the European Union.

The University has become a focus for a wide range of artistic activity and is home to some fine collections of Irish Art, the Irish Chamber Orchestra and the Irish World Music Centre.
Travelling to Limerick
There are direct flights (scheduled and charter) into Shannon Airport (30 minutes drive from UL) from Atlanta, Boston, Chicago, Detroit, Indianapolis, Los Angeles, Miami, Newark, New York JFK, Sanford (Florida) and Toronto. There are also frequent daily flights to Shannon from London (1 hour 10 minutes). The Conference organizers will arrange coach transfers between Shannon and UL on the first and last days of ACIS 2000. Travel time by train to and from Dublin is 2 hours 10 minutes with some 12 trains per day each way on weekdays.

Accommodations for ACIS 2000
Comfortable accommodations at reasonable rates (IRE 25.00 per night for bed and breakfast) during the ACIS meeting at UL will be in Kilnsey Village, an attractive residential village on campus. This complex comprises 6/8 bedroom terraced houses with large kitchen/living room and two bathroom facilities in each house. Continental breakfast will be delivered to the houses and a daily cleaning service is provided. Kilnsey Village borders the River Shannon and is adjacent to the main sport facilities on campus, including tennis courts, a running track and an indoor swimming pool.

Irish Studies at UL
University of Limerick offers a full undergraduate degree programme in Irish Studies which combines courses in Irish language and literature and other courses in Irish Studies (Irish literature in English, modern Irish history, Irish folklore and Irish traditional music) with the study of a continental European language (French or German or Spanish). Faculty and postgraduate research in all of these areas is being facilitated and encouraged by the University particularly through the Humanities Graduate Research Centre and the Irish World Music Centre.

REGIONAL MEETINGS

New England
The 1999 regional will be held as a joint project of Elm College and Westfield State College on October 1-2. Keynote speakers are John Home, M.P., and Margaret MacCurtain. Contact Conor Johnston at vej@vtech.com for further information.

Midwest
The regional meeting will be at St. Ambrose University, Davenport, Iowa, October 8-9, 1999. The theme is "Symposia in Irish Studies." For further information contact Charles Fanning, English Department, Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, IL 62901. Fax: 618-453-6639. E-mail: c-fanning@siu.edu.

Nominations for the position of Midwest Representative of ACIS may be sent to Larry McCaffrey, Chair of Nominations Committee, at 1227 Maple Avenue, Evanston, IL 60202, or by e-mail to Larry@lpmccaffrey.com.

Western
The regional will be at Central Washington University, Ellensburg, WA, October 22-24. The theme is "The Second Coming: Ireland at the Millennium." This year Robert Tracy is being honored for his commitment to Irish studies with a special session devoted to his new book, The Unacceptable Host. For further information contact Audrey S. Eyer, English Department, Pacific Lutheran University, Tacoma, WA 98447. E-mail: eyeraus@plu.edu

Mid-Atlantic
The Mid-Atlantic Regional will take place on October 29-30 at the University of Del., Newark, DE. The theme will be "Authenticating the self and the nation: Irish culture and society, 1800-2000," focusing on the Irish search, since the Act of Union, for the legitimate or the authentic in literature, the arts, social and political relations, which has often resulted in "delegitimizing" other forces. The meeting will feature a keynote speech by Prof. I.J. Lee of University College Cork, spending the 1999-2000 academic year at New York University. For further information contact Robert Mahony at mahony@cu.edu.
Southern

The 2000 regional meeting will be a conference cruise on board the Carnival Ecstasy sailing from Miami (back and back) February 4-7. Entitled "The Irish in the Atlantic World," it will focus on the interaction of Irish workers. Contact Richard Bistoff, English Dept., Univ. of North Florida (rbistott@gw.unf.edu) for further information.

ELECTION RESULTS

The following were elected as new officers of ACIS:
President: Nancy Curtin
Vice-President: Michael Patrick Gillispe
Area Representative: Stephen Hart
Celtic Studies Representative: Lina M. Bittel
History Representative: Timothy J. Meagher
Irish Language Representative: Cailin Owens
Literature Representative: Guinn Batten
Social Science Representative: David W. Miller

Congratulations to all elected.

JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

Boston College Irish Studies Program

The English Department and the Irish Studies Program seek a tenure-track assistant professor to join an established interdisciplinary program. We welcome applicants with expertise in Irish literature of any period (e.g. Irish-American and other literatures of the Irish diaspora, folkloric and popular culture, post-colonial studies, or Irish-language literature). Experience in some areas of English or American literature is desirable. Teaching experience would be an asset, and graduate courses. Applications should include letter, cv, writing sample, and dossier, postmarked by November 5, 1999, and addressed to Paul Lewis, Chair, Department of English, Boston College, Chestnut Hill, MA 02167. Please supply self-addressed postcard for acknowledgment. Boston College is an AA/EEO employer.

REPORT FROM THE NATIONAL ACIS MEETING, ROANOKE, VA (MAY 12-15, 1999)

Summary of Business Meetings (Presidents' Report)

President's Report. Pres. Lucy McDermid described the work of several ad-hoc committees. The Ad-hoc Committee on Book Prize nominations, this year's book awards, awards in cyberspace and cyberspace, and guidelines for their work: books may be considered for one prize only, and separate prizes committee will determine its criteria of eligibility. The Ad-hoc Committee on the Research Report Form was chaired by Dick Bistoff (other members were Cheryl Hart and Gary Owens). Although the old paper form is still in use this year, new members may use ACIS website to study their research on report. In addition, new web site is now available for the College, Cinema, Cultural Studies, and Irish Language. The Ad-hoc Committee on the Future of the Annual was chaired by John Harrington (other members were Tim Brien, Carol Mitchell, and Maureen Waters). The Committee's report recommended renewing the contract with the University of Massachusetts Press. A minority recommendation received the Executive Committee's recommendation to use the matter of the Annual to the new Executive. Pres. McDermid reported on our communications with ACIS. Jim McKillop had been told that a scholarly publication was required for membership; Pres. McDermid, calling after the publica-

lization of Vol. 1 of the Annual, was told that a second volume was required, so the publication could be transferred as stable and continuing. The Pres. reported that the ACIS continues its affiliations with the MLA and the AHA. Cheryl Herr hopes to continue our affiliation with the Society for Cinema Studies, and we hope to renew our affiliation with the American Anthropological Association.

St. Marie Hubert Kealy and Ann Owens Worked together on an Ad-hoc Committee on Regional Election. They recommended that regional elections, when contested, be by mail ballot; and that regional representatives be limited to two terms. The executive committee voted that each regional representative should bring these recommendations to its membership. A report by an ad-hoc committee of former ACIS Presidents was submitted by Maureen Murphy and will be published in the Fall Newsletter. Pres. McDermid wrote a memo on the procedures followed by recent Nominations Committees, in the hope that such procedures could be stabilized. The Executive Committee voted to refer this matter to the new Executive. Two other ad-hoc committees, one on Program Procedures and one on the Newsletter, submitted reports which were agenda items. This meeting. Pres. McDermid offered thanks to the members of her Executive, noting that they were a "watered Executive Committee," in three respects they were the first to meet in cyberspace, and so were in a sessional format for almost two years; because of the changed context and form of their meeting, they were more interactive, more consultation, and more democratic; and, finally, they were more procedurally conscious than previous Executive Committees. Pres. McDermid quoted Henry Roberts on parliamentary procedures: "The only rule under which every member can be expected to vote is that no member shall vote on a rule until someone calls attention to the fact that they are not rules." McDermid said that this Executive Committee had discovered precisely what extent the ACIS operated by "tradition and custom."

The Secretary's new ACIS Newsletter editor announced that currently there are over 1300 members of the organization. The Electronic Guide to Irish Studies in the United States has 63 listings for 28 institutions in the District of Columbia. It was voted at the Executive meeting to have the ACIS Secretary continue maintenance of The Guide on the ACIS Web page.

The Treasurer, John Harrington, presented the Treasurer's Report. He pointed out the variation in terms of membership numbers within the year, generally falling between 1200 and 1450. At the beginning of the 1997-98 fiscal year, there were 1,247 members, 1,434 at the end of that year. Currently, there are 1,338 members. Regarding income and expenditures, we consistently spend less and take in more.

ACIS Book Prizes


Roger McHugh Prize

Randi Brandt (Renous-Lochry College) is the 1999 recipient of the Roger McHugh Prize bestowed by New Hibernia Review for his article, "'Letter by Strange Letter': Yeats, Hynes, and the Ape of the Book," which appeared in the Summer 1998 issue of NHR. The prize is named for the late Roger McHugh, first professor of Anglo-Irish Literature at UCD.

Reports of Ad-hoc Committees.

Program Procedures: introduced by Pres. Curtin, this report was made by Liz Cuzio (Boston College) and Gary Owens; consultants were Jim Doan, Jim MacKillop, Lucy McDermid, and Johann Norstedt. These are intended to be a forum for discussion of issues between the ACIS and the host institution. A motion to accept the report moved and seconded. An amendment was suggested that the host institution "may sponsor a program in consultation with the program committee." The amendment carried by overwhelming majority. Another amendment was suggested adding a new clause, that "host institutions be encouraged to provide a session for the circulation and discussion of papers not otherwise presented at the conference." The question was called and carried by overwhelming majority. The new clause, with 42 approved and amendment failed. The acceptance of the report was approved with 81 in favor, 0 opposed.

The Newsletter report was introduced by Andrew Wilson. A motion to accept Part One, "Contents of Newsletter," was moved and seconded. Discussion ensued. There was a motion to suspend §3 of the Standing Rules for the ACIS Annual General Meeting. Vote of 29 in favor and 30 against; with rule maintained. The question was called and carried by an overwhelming majority. A motion to adopt a by vote of 6 in favor, 62 opposed. A motion was approved to withdraw Part Two, "Rules of Editor."

New Business: A motion to add ACIS to organizations endorsing "1940 Statement of Principles on Academic Freedom and Tenure, with 1970 Interpretive Comments" of the American Association of University Professors (AAUP) was approved by acclamation.

A motion that the Executive establish an ad-hoc subcommittee of itself to review and revise the organization's by-laws passed by overwhelming majority. Pres. McDermid thanked Johann Norstedt for his work on the Roanoke conference.

New Executive Committee Meeting, May 15, 1999

Kay McKeogh of Dublim City University addressed the Committee on her institution's initiative to begin making online directory of Irish Studies available to students and faculty at the United States. These programs are already in existence and accredited at DUC. She called for a working group to discuss the incorporation and extent of the "Guide." Comments from US schools, etc. She hoped such courses would raise the profile of Irish studies in the US and make certain aspects of Irish studies available to institutions in the US with limited resources/faculty in Irish studies. The Committee discussed the proposal's benefits, details, and pitfalls. Pres. Curtin suggested that the plan and a call for materials be submitted to the project should be published in the ACIS Newsletter.

Limerick 2000 report: Pres. Curtin nominated the following Program Committee for the national conference: Nancy Curtin, Michael Gillispie, David Miller, Lisa Bittel, and Stephen Waut. The committee was approved unanimously.

Pres. Curtin nominated the following committees, which were approved unanimously:
1) Finance Committee: Monica Brennan, Timothy Meagher, and Cailin Owens. The following Pres. Curtin Committee consider spending on new initiatives. The motion was passed unanimously.
2) Publications Committee, whose responsibilities will include reviewing the previous Publications Committee's report, submitted by past Treasurer John Harrington, and discussing the future of ACIS publications. Chair: Michael Gillispie, Lucy McDermid, and Robert Mahony.

Pursuant to a resolution of the general business meeting. Pres. Curtin proposed a committee to review the bylaws and, if necessary, propose revisions. She recommended that Regional Representatives coordinate a review of the bylaws at regional meetings, through e-mail, etc., and to collaborate the responses for the Bylaw review committee. The traditional ACIS and the ACIS and proposal of procedures for the future: Michael Gillispie, Lucy McDermid, and Robert Mahony.

The Bylaw Review Committee will also publicize a call for review of the bylaws in the Newsletter and on the ACIS web page. The Committee will then report to the Executive Committee at the annual meeting in Limerick, at which point the Executive will discuss and vote on the report to be presented eventually to the general membership for discussion and voting.

The nominating the following Bylaw Review Committee: Michael Gillispie, Lucy McDermid, and Stephen Waut. The committee was approved unanimously.

Pres. Curtin proposed that the following committee revise the membership form to better reflect the profile of the ACIS membership: Kathryn Conrad, Monica Brennan, and David Miller. The committee was approved unanimously.

Pres. Curtin nominated the following Cyber-Protocol and Procedures Committee, whose responsibilities will include reporting to the Executive Committee by August 1, 1999, on suggestions for the conduct of Executive Committee business. On the Internet: Connor Johnston, Richard Bistoff and Kathryn Conrad. The committee was approved unanimously.

Pres. Curtin introduced the possibility of ACIS purchasing a Web site, which the Secretary will maintain. Purchasing a Website would allow ACIS to have a website that addresses that would not need to move or be dependent on the good will of a host university. The Executive Committee authorized the exploration of this option in the future. More information might be included on this Website. Further suggestions should be directed to the Secretary.

ACIS WEB PAGE

The new ACIS Web Page is http://www.acisweb.com. A report on the progress will be sent to the Executive Committee, Secretary, Kathryn Conrad (keosaud@sege.clc.kaanacs.edu).

ACIS at AHA

ACIS will jointly sponsor a panel together with the American Catholic Historical Association at the AHA meeting in Chicago next January. Entitled "Popular Devotion: The Irish Experience,"...
it will be chaired by Emmet Larkin (University of Chicago), and panelists will be Raymond Gillespie (NU, Maynooth), "The Meaning of Religion in Seventeenth-Century Ireland," James D. Dempsey (Director of Madison Campus), "The Revival of Knock Shrine" and Ellen Skerrett (Independent Scholar, Columbia) "Experiences in Chicago's Hull House Neighborhood." Proposals for papers and/or a panel for the 2001 meeting should be sent to the ACS History Representative: Timothy Meagher, History Department, Catholic University of America, Washington, D.C. 20064.

ACIS at MLA
ACIS will host two panels at the MLA in Chicago (Dec. 27-30). The first, "Literature and the Other Arts in Ireland," will be chaired by Sandra Selig, Cornell University, and will include Mary Helen Thuinte, Indiana University-Purdue University, "The Visual Politics of Irish National Identity;" James F. Knapp, University of Pittsburgh, "Historical Representation and the Cuala Press Broadside;" Rand Bredes, Lenox-Rhyme College, "Seamus Heaney's Poetical Palette;" and Margaret Mills Harper, Georgia State University, "Infusing the U.S. University Web Pages Music Making." The second, entitled "Politics and Culture in Ireland," will be chaired by Edward Madden, University of South Carolina, and will feature Susan Cannon Harris, University of Notre Dame, "Double Reproduction: The Rosdela Hospital and the Production of Anglo-Ireland;" Gregory Castillo, Arizona State University, "The Battle of the Books: Vean, Duffy and the Cultural Politics of Revivalism;" Francis Charles McGrath, University of Southern Maine, "The Irish Subaltern Settler: The Marching Season and Postcolonial Theory;" and James M. Smith, Boston College, "The Politics of Decolonization: Ireland's Architecture of Containment and Patrick McCarra's The Irish House." For further information contact the ACS Literature Representative, Quim Batan, English Department, Washington University, St. Louis, MO 63130. Email: mbatian@artsci.wustl.edu.

The MLA has renewed the Allied Organization Status of the ACS for the next seven years. This is the status that permits us automatically to hold two sessions every year at the December meeting of the MLA, without having to submit proposals for prior approval. A letter from the MLA renewing our allied status was sent in late May by Maribeth Kraus, Director of Convention Programs for the MLA.

CALLS FOR PAPERS
Graduate Irish Studies Conference
The Twelfth Irish Studies Conference will convene March 24-26, 2000, at Claremont Graduate University in Claremont, California. This conference will consider "The Irish City" from a variety of perspectives. Consult the call for papers at www.cgs.edu/FTIC.htm. Forward enquires and abstracts to Maureen O'Connor, Claremont Graduate University, Blaisdell House, 143 North Dartmouth, Claremont, CA 91711-6103, e-mail: maureen.oconnor@cgs.edu, fax: 909-607-7938.

Thirteenth Ulster-American Heritage Symposium
On Saturday, 19 January 2002, "Irish Confronting Immigration," the symposium will be held June 21-24, 2000, at the Centre for Migration Studies, Ulster American Folk Park, Mellont Road, Courtown, Co. Wexford, Northern Ireland. Using an interdisciplinary approach, the symposium will deal with the process of transatlantic emigration and links between England, Scotland, Ireland and North America. For further information, contact Brian Lambkis. Phone: 44-1662-256315. Fax: 44-1662-242241. E-mail: uap@llc.ie.

The Sociology of the Irish Diaspora
The Irish American Studies Section of the American Sociological Association, Irish Network of North America, is publishing a special edition of the journal in late 2000 focusing on the major social aspects of Irish emigration, the Irish diaspora and the lifestyles, politics and cultures of the Irish abroad. Anyone interested in contributing to this edited, or an abstract of about 500 words, or a completed paper for peer review, by September 24, 1999, to: Dr. James W. McSweeney, Guest Editor, Irish Journal of Sociology, School of Social Science and Policy Studies, The Univ. of Huddersfield, West Yorkshire, England HDI 3DH. Tel: +44(0)1484-472949. E-mail: j.w.mcsweeney@huddersfield.ac.uk or Dr. Denis D'Oilean, Irish Journal of Sociology, Dept. of Sociology and Social Policy, Queen's Univ., Belfast BT7 1NN, N. Ireland. E-mail: D.Oilean@qub.ac.uk. Further details on the Irish Journal of Sociology can be found at http://www.qub.ac.uk/ijsp/ijsoc.htm and of the details at the Association at http://www.qub.ac.uk/ijsp/ijsa.htm.

THIRD ACS ANNUAL
Anyone wishing to submit proposals for the third ACS annual should contact Gary Owens, Houston College, University of Western Ontario, 1349 Western Road, London, Ontario, Canada, N6G 1H3; e-mail: gowens@uwoyo.on.ca.

IACI AWARDS
The Irish American Cultural Institute (IACI) is accepting applications for research on the American Irish during the past year $25,000 in funds was awarded and the recipients included: Laura Orrick (Ball State University); Janet Nolan (Longbee University - Vermont); Elizabeth Rivas (Brandeis University); Gary Mindy (Brooklyn Law School); R. Douglas Hurn (Iowa State University); Kevin Kenny (University of Texas); Henry McKevitt (University of South Alabama); and Daniel E. Tobin (Carthage College). Original research expenses for travel and publication costs are typically funded up to $5,000. The IACI has three funds given by Philadelphia's Friendly Sons of St. Patrick, the Irish Institute of New York, and the O'Connell's Charitable Fund. The application deadline is October 1, 1999, for the John F. Concannon Savage at IACI, One Lackawanna Place, Morristown, NJ 07960, or call (973) 605-1991.

FELLOWSHIP IN GALWAY
Applications are now being accepted for the IACI/IrishGalway 2000 Fellowship. The Fellowship is tenable at NUI-Galway to scholars, normally residents in the United States, who wish to spend a semester (not less than four months) at the university, and whose work relates to any aspect of Irish Studies. The Fellowship includes a stipend of $13,000, transatlantic transportation, accommodation and all other visiting scholar member status. The deadline is December 31, 1999. Contact Katie Finn at (973) 605-1991; fax (973) 605-8875, or e-mail: irishways@gal.com.

GEORGE J. MICHHELL SCHOLARSHIPS
The US-Ireland Alliance has established the George J. Mitchell Scholarships to educate future American leaders about the island of Ireland - North and South. To provide them with an understanding about an interest in, and an affinity with, the island from which 44 million Americans claim descent. The Scholarships are tenable at any of the seven universities in the Republic of Ireland and the two universities in Northern Ireland. The deadline is October 15, 1999. For further information, contact the US-Ireland Alliance, 1747 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., 12th Floor, Washington, D.C. 20006.

NEW G. B. SHAW SERIES
The University Press of Florida has inaugurated The Florida Bernard Shaw Series, publishing studies of the work of GBS, bringing its well established and rapidly growing James Joyce Series to Florida. The series is edited by Richard F. Distich, the Joyce series by Zack Brown. Inquiries may go directly to the University Press of Florida, 5155 NW 34th St., Gainesville, FL 32611-2037, or call the UF Press website (http://www.upf.com).

CLARIFICATION
In a recent report of the ACS Committee on Mission and Procedures (the "CAP" report), which was published in the Fall 99 Newsletter, reference was made to 1998 New England Regional Elections. We, the members of the CAMP Committee, want to make it clear that this reference in no way implied that there was any imperfection in the election process which resulted in the re-election of Canon Johnston as President and Regional Representative of the New England Region of ACS.

Michelle Brennan
Kathryn Corrad
Adele Dismier
Shane Duane
Mary Helen Thunete

PAST PRESIDENTS' REPORT
To: The ACS Executive Committee
From: ACS Past Presidents
Re: Past President's Report
An Ad-hoc committee of three: Jim MacKillop, Maureen Murphy and Tom Huchek, met on June 5th and July 7th and in Syracuse on August 12th to discuss a report from ACS Past Presidents to review the history of Irish Studies in the United States at the turn of the twentieth century and analyze the role that the ACS has played in its growth. We also considered a number of suggestions we might make about our organization based on our collective experience on the Executive Committee over nearly forty years.

The MacKillop, Murphy, Rhodes draft of this report was circulated to ACS Past Presidents for their comments. Tom Huchek, Emmet Larkin, Larry McCarthy, Hal Orel and Mary Helen Thunete responded by letter or phone. In addition, Robert Hughes has discussed a number of matters that appear in this report with Lucy McDermid.

First, some history. We were founded in 1950 to provide an opportunity for scholars working on Irish topics to come together and share the study of things Irish in the United States. The impetus for ACS came from historians who found that meetings of the American Historical Association did not offer appropriate opportunities for the discussion of Irish history. They contacted people working in other disciplines (literature, Celtic Studies) and the organization was formed. Its original name, the American Committee for Irish Studies, did not refer to its small membership but to the nature of the organization: intimate, interactive, collaborative, collegial.

From the beginning, ACS was an organization whose purpose was to encourage research and writing in Irish Studies and to promote Irish Studies as a distinct course of study in American colleges and universities. To that end, over the years, the organization has done a number of things to support our purpose:

1. Recruited members from various disciplines, from different geographic regions in the US, and from wider constituencies than college and university faculty: graduate students, secondary school teachers, etc. Over the years the number of participants and the scale of the conferences has grown. The growth presents new challenges to the organizations to provide program opportunities for diverse constituencies and research areas.

The success of the annual national meeting has encouraged the formation of regional meetings: New England, Mid-Atlantic, Southern, Mid-West and Western, and we meet annually in the fall or winter for shorter weekend conferences.

3. Created ACS-sponsored communications: the ACS Newsletter (originally, news, book reviews, research reports), the ACS Reprints Series (valuable in the days before classic in Irish Studies were reprinted or otherwise more easily available), the Guide to Irish Studies in the United States (useful in demonstrating to professional Irish Studies and in establishing the potential readerships), the ACS membership brochure, the ACS Web Page and the first volume of an annual ACS collection of essays, Gender and Sexuality in Modern Ireland (1997), edited by Anthony Bradley and Maryann Gianella Vallias. (Under the current arrangement, two more volumes will be published by the University of Massachusetts.) While the Irish Literary Supplement is not an official ACS publication, it is affiliated with ACS through our dues subsidy which provides an ACS subscription to every member. The ACS has provided a venue for members' books to be reviewed and the opportunity for members to be reviewers.

4. Established relationships with Irish state and semi-state bodies and with Irish research facilities. From the beginning, ACS officers and representatives have developed a working arrangement with the Cultural Relations Committee of the Department of Foreign Affairs which has included funding for Irish research by Irish and American scholars.

The Department of Foreign Affairs has provided subsidies for printing editions of A Guide to Irish Studies in the United States. The Irish Tourist Board has been a generous patron of ACS over the years.
Traditionally, they host a reception at our annual meeting. They also sponsored a second printing of the Guide.

ACIS has developed a similar relationship with Northern Ireland through the Northern Ireland Arts Council and through the Northern Ireland Office of the European Union Embassies in Washington. They have sponsored Northern Irish scholars, writers, and artists who have participated in ACIS national conferences; they provided a handsome subsidy and hospitality to those who joined the 1987 post-conference tour to the North; they contributed generously to the Belfast meeting including grants to American participants, and they have been especially interested in including ACIS member institutions’ as venues for their travelling programs and exhibitions.

ACIS has especially close ties with two major Irish research institutions: the National Library of Ireland and the Linen Hall Library. Beginning with ACIS’s oldest and dearest friend in Ireland, Alf Mc Lochlainn, the National Library has welcomed ACIS members. For many years, we have annually shown our appreciation with a gift of $500. We have established a similar annual gift to the Belfast Linen Hall Library where John Gray and his staff have extended research assistance to members working in Belfast.

5. Supported scholarly projects. One of the most significant contributions the ACIS has made to the development of Irish Studies in the United States is its support of scholarly projects and of young scholars. Senior scholars have mentored younger scholars and supported Irish Studies with advice, letters of recommendation for research proposals and grants and for promotion and tenure. ACIS has provided a network of support for Irish Studies specialists. These efforts have helped both younger scholars to create the first generation of Irish Studies professionals in the United States.

6. Shared resources. ACIS members, particularly those in the same region, shared resources like the Louis MacMillan file collection in the days before video technology provided files of Irish interest inexpensive. ACIS members working together have shared visits of Irish scholars and writers and provided venues in a particular area that may be possible to bring visitors to local campuses. While there are more individual arrangements now with Irish visitors, in the early years these cooperative arrangements often were the only way to arrange such individual reading/speaking tours.

7. Established the ACIS Archives. The ACIS Archives have been established at Boston College. The Archives are housed in the Burns Library.

8. Solicited support for ACIS Book Prizes. The annually awarded ACIS Book Prizes honor Irish Studies publications in Humanities and in Social Sciences. There is a first book prize. The prizes are funded with donors’ gifts. An ACIS Book Prize has proven to have had value for a book’s promotion and an author’s professional career.

Beyond this list of initiatives and activities, ACIS has, in tangible ways, been the mid-wife to Irish Studies in the United States. We have been awarded with the growth of Irish Studies programs and courses offerings around the country. We no longer have to make the case for Irish Studies courses to be listed separately from British history or literature offerings. We no longer have to argue that Irish Studies is mainstream.

ACIS itself grows to a stable membership of some 1200 (numbers from Mary Helen Tensee); members involved with Irish Studies around the world have joined us and have attended our national conference. We have a comfortable surplus in our treasury.

What now? What are the challenges and opportunities we face regarding the future of Irish Studies in the United States? While the importance and depth of Irish Studies programs and of the professionalization in Irish Studies is evident, the most crucial issue facing Irish Studies is creating Irish Studies faculty lines so that Irish Studies specialists are replaced with other Irish Studies scholars when they retire. We have had only limited success with providing continuity for Irish Studies courses and programs. When Robert Rhodes retired from Cornell, he negotiated a part-time appointment for a scholar who joined the faculty. Larry McAffrey saw to it that his replacement (Janet Nolan) was an Irish specialist. Maurice O’Connell recruited ACIS colleagues to write the Fordham administration to ensure that his replacement would be able to offer courses in Irish history. Fordham hired Nancy Curtin. Is there more that we can do to encourage these scenarios? Last time Maureen Murphy revised the Guide, she heard a number of disappointing stories about Irish courses ending with individual retirements.

Another area where some shifts have occurred since the Guide was last printed is in the frequency of course offerings in Irish topics. What can we do to encourage departments and institutions to recognize that careful planning and offer courses in Irish from occasional or special topics listings to regular course offerings? While Irish Studies is recognized as a legitimate discipline at some institutions, our experience at Fordham is that some have more faculty and others more specialists for a place in the department course offerings.

Finally, what are we doing for graduates of American Irish Studies programs? If Irish Studies in the United States is to flourish, we must offer some hope to our graduates that their degrees from our programs are viable in the current Irish Studies job market here and abroad.

What are our opportunities? First, as Hal Orel reminds us, there are the thousands and thousands of American undergraduate students that we have introduced to Irish Studies, that we have brought to Ireland for short tours or for semester-length programs. Very few of them continued their formal studies of Irish; however, as they become settled in their careers, this might be the time for them to reengage with their Irish interests. BC Friends of Irish Studies is a model for such outreach to an institution’s Irish Studies graduates.

Hal also drew our attention to the relatively low listing of courses dealing with Irish migration to the United States and to the Irish diaspora, yet, the high interest in Irish immigration family history suggests this would be an area to develop. The Irish Diaspora Symposium organized by Charlie Fanning for Southern Illinois University’s Irish Studies Program and the University’s Division of Continuing Education in 1998 demonstrated the interest that attends the Irish immigration experience. Charlie’s work with Continung Education reminds us of college and university adult education programs and the opportunities they offer us to reach out to the interested layman.

Moving from the larger concerns to the details of ACIS organization and policies, MacKillop, Murphy and Rhodes asked ACIS Past Presidents to share specific suggestions about the program matters of running a large organization without a central office and paid staff. Their suggestions include:

Institutional record: While Boston College is the repository of the ACIS Archives, we suggest that there be current files for all officers that include: minutes of the Executive Committee meetings, minutes of the Irish Studies conference programs. Regional representatives should have appropriate documentation including regional resources: consular contacts or other funding sources. The ACIS should adopt a two-year calendar that lists the deadlines for various activities. There should be a conference director’s handbook to pass along and to update. We strongly suggest that there be a Executive Committee workshop for new members scheduled before the annual conference (or at another more convenient time).

Organizational information to members: We suggest that the Fall Newsletter include a President’s Message, the minutes of the AGM and a calendar of the year’s events with appropriate deadlines and information. The Winter Newsletter could include information about the national Conference with a message from the Conference Director.

ACIS and the AGM: This report is, in part, the result of the spirited exchange at the Fl. Lauderdale AGM. Such debates require that we consider how to give to the timing of the AGM so as to encourage maximum participation and sufficient time for our deliberations. Jim McAffrey, noting that Friday noon is the time of maximum attendance, suggests that the AGM run from 11:00-12:30 following the 9:00-10:30 plenary session. Mary Helen suggests we reserve the right to exercise the mall ballot option on important issues.

Annual Conference: We recommend using a broad theme that guides but that does not restrict sessions and paper offerings. This has been our usual practice, and all report it has been satisfactory. We suggest that the Conference Committee include the Vice-President, the discipline representatives, the host and two or three members of the local organizing committee. We affirm that the conference is a requirement for participation, but we also affirm that the Conference Committee reserve the right to designate honorary memberships. We have used two protocols for paper selection. In one protocol, members submit proposals by mail to a conference director who selects the papers. In the other (preferred) protocol, the proposals/abstracts/papers go to the discipline representatives after the deadline, and the discipline reps present the submissions at a conference planning meeting usually held at one of the regional meetings. The consensus of the planners determines the program. Our current experience has been that these planning meetings have been extremely successful.

Interdisciplinary Sessions: We reaffirm the inter-disciplinary commitment of ACIS and recommend that conference directors and their program committees make a concerted effort to encourage interdisciplinary papers and sessions. For example, the Call for Papers should make a special point to encourage interdisciplinary offerings and they should have special consideration in the scheduling.

Diversity in Program Format: We have talked about and tried different kinds of program formats to break away from the plenary lectures and three-paper/commentator sessions. For example, the living books reviews at the Albany conference were an effective innovation. We suggest looking at ways to create other venues for participation: round table discussions, SIGs (special interest groups), poster sessions.

Irish Participants: We have had an historical relationship with the Republic of Ireland and with the Northern Ireland Arts Council who have supported scholars, usually senior scholars, whom we have invited to attend and to address national conferences. With the younger Irish scholars we have not used this approach. It has been the custom for the Conference Director to name the invited speakers usually with the approval of the Conference Committee.

The growth of Irish Studies has meant that senior scholars have a number of different opportunities to lecture in the United States, so ACIS is not providing scholars at that level with the unique experience that it has been in the past; therefore, we recommend that at least one of the invited scholars be a promising junior scholar who gets some American exposure by giving a paper in an appropriate session.

We also believe that the invited Irish scholar arrangement offers us an opportunity to hear from experts in disciplines other than history and literature. Aislingean O’Suhaigh’s talk about Cormac’s Chapel (Carndonagh, 1996) was a chance for us to learn something about public policy and the preservation of national monuments.

American Plenary: We recommend that we honor the work of at least one American Scholar in a plenary session at our national meeting. Some of us believe that the number of plenary speakers should be balanced between American and Irish scholars.

Graduate Students and ACIS: How do we encourage graduate students to participate in the meetings? Should we offer some special dues? reduced conference registration fees, special provision for graduate papers in the program? Can we make better use of our conference directories? Should we have graduate students come to mentor them and provide opportunities for graduate students to present work in progress? Our regional chapters are well-planned conferences offered in attractive venues; however, the turnout is rather small. Are we missing an opportunity to do something to help graduate students?

Term of Office: Some Past Presidents have suggested that officers serve three not two years. The additional year would allow for greater continuity.

Annual: The additional ten dollars in our dues is not out of line.
Design and Teach Your Own Course
Marymount Manhattan College’s Center for Learning and Living offers these internships to provide the opportunity to teach a course of their own choosing in a program designed for people over 50. Each class meets for 8 1/2 hour sessions and is conducted at Marymount Manhattan College, 221 East 71st St., New York. Class meet on Tues., Wed. and Thurs. From 10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., during the academic year. Send resume and course description to Center for Learning and Living, e-mail: rlny@prodigy.net; fax: (212) 628-4208.

ACIS Proceedings as an Internet Publication?
Dr. Roy Johnston, DMS/IPS, Ireland
I attended the Roanoke conference as an observer from outside the Irish Studies community, but being from Ireland and based in Ireland I am anxious to be supportive of what you are doing. I attended as many of the sessions as I was able, and found several papers of interest, making useful contacts. This is what conferences are all about. But would I buy a printed proceedings? I did the sums; it would probably amount to a heavy volume, 500 pages or more. Not only 10% at most is relevant to my areas of interest. Anyway, there just aren’t the submissions.

As regards the authors of interest, I have their e-mail address and can get their texts. This presumably is the norm. But the authors I missed? The ones I did not even recognize, and should have contacted? This led me to evaluate the feasibility of setting up the ACIS conference proceedings as a Web site, with this as the prime mode of publication. I personally would be glad to pay personally a reasonable sum for access to such a site, with the right selectively to download.

Let me specify what I mean:
1. There would be a "top level" consisting of the President’s overview and the keynote plenary papers; this is a quality meeting printed publication, if there is a demand, and its Web editing should bear this in mind.
2. There could be a next level down consisting of review papers written by the session conveners, covering the topics of their sessions in overview. If these were subject to quality control by a peer-review procedure, they could also be candidates for the printed proceedings, if it is decided to go also for printed mode. In the hypertext version, they could be hotlinked into appropriate linkpoints in the overview and keynote papers.
3. The real meat of the conference is the contributed papers themselves. These are often "works in progress" (WIP) but they are sometimes complete and published or publishable elsewhere. In the latter case there may be copyright problems. So, what we would then do is give only an abstract and a reference. Where a paper is WIP there is no copyright problem; the author would be motivated to make it available in full to get peer feedback, with a view to eventual publication elsewhere, enhanced by the first round exposure, and with feedback acknowledged. These papers and abstracts would be hot-linked from the session convenors’ overviews and would be accessible via the general indexing system.

To my mind, an ACIS proceedings, published on the Web in the above mode, and accessible for a modest supplement on the conference fee, of the order of $20-30 or so, would be well worth paying for. What do people think? I should say, for your $20-30 you get the right to register a password, and this would entitle you to a limited number of downloads. We might envisage also a higher-priced institutional registration, with unlimited downloading rights.

To test out this concept between now and ACIS2000 in Limerick, I would be interested in receiving expressions of intent from session convenors to do overview papers of their 1999 sessions, and from contributors who have e-mailable copies available. To complete the pilot ACIS1999 we would need at least one plenary paper, and the President’s Report. If it looks as though there is a creditable amount of 1999 material available, we will go ahead and produce a pilot Web site publication, on a trial, for the consideration of the Publications Committee.

Please don’t start sending stuff until we see the extent of the interest. If I get a reasonable number of nominations for intent, I will say, go ahead, send me the stuff, or write it and send it (saved as RTF of course?)

If the ACIS Council sees the pilot partial 1999 Proceedings and likes the idea, then we will go ahead and do it in full for ACIS2000, provided the feedback from this initial enquiry is good. ACIS may decide it wants to be its own publisher and put in some money up front. This would undoubtedly help to make it happen. If, however, this is not possible, it is up to IPS (Internet Publishing Services, for which I am acting) to decide if it wants to risk putting in the resources for an uncertain future return. Some up-front money from ACIS, or a suitable sponsor identified by ACIS, would certainly help to make this decision easier and less risky. I look forward to hearing from you all, especially the many whose company I enjoyed at Roanoke. Please send feedback to rjohnston@unisymp.com and copy it to rjtech@iol.ie

FROM THE EDITOR
Beginning with this issue, the Newsletter will be published at Nova Southeastern University. I would like to encourage members to send newsworthy items regarding Irish studies events, new positions, journals, and Web sites, calls for papers, etc., to me on line (dowen@nova.mcs.nova.edu). As with Roy Johnston’s enquiry regarding publication of ACIS conference papers, I would like to see the Newsletter become a forum for discussion of issues that affect Irish studies inside, and outside, the academy. The deadlines for items to be considered for the Newsletter are: Nov. 11 (Winter issue); Feb. 14 (Spring issue); and Aug. 1 (Fall issue). I cannot guarantee placement of articles received after those dates.