



International Summer School



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**‘I get down on my knees
and do what must be done
And kiss Achilles’ hand,
the killer of my son.’**

Ceasefire, Michael Longley



Welcome to Belfast

St Mary's University College is delighted to welcome students and faculty from four USA universities to our International Summer School. The event provides a unique insight into politics, culture and post-Brexit relationships 26 years on from the Belfast - Good Friday Agreement. The theme of the International Summer School is 'Building Peace through Dialogue' and is delivered in association with Féile an Phobail between 5th and 9th August 2024.

At St Mary's we are committed to facilitating dialogue with others at local, national and international levels, mindful always of our own distinctive faith-based institutional identity.

Our College has been associated with the Féile for thirty years and our respective interests coalesce around the significance that we both attach to the dignity of people as well as the role of education as the foundation for community development. We both believe that education is an agent of democracy and pluralism. We understand that debates and discussions help to improve a collective understanding of the cultural, economic, political and social context in which we live – a context that is constantly changing and increasingly international.

The objective for the International Summer School is to provide visitors from the USA with a very enjoyable



educational and cultural experience in Belfast and Ireland - one you will remember for a long time. We want to enhance understanding of our country and its people at a time of great change and also build lasting friendships and partnerships in the USA.

Creidimid go gcumasaíonn foghlaim siorfheabhsu.

Professor Peter Finn KSG

College Principal & Ex-Officio Governor

Belfast

A City of Learning

Belfast is a vibrant city with a rich cultural heritage.

Belfast has it all: traditional markets, live music, friendly pubs, funky street food and fancy restaurants, affordable accommodation, and a story that means visitors return again and again.

St Mary's University College is located on the Falls Road, an area rich in history, right in the heart of west Belfast. Visitors find local people friendly and enthusiastic. We love welcoming people to our city. You will feel at home here. It's a small, close-knit community full of characters.

For over a century, St Mary's University College has been delivering quality teacher education and more recently liberal arts degree programmes.

Things to do and see in Belfast

- A tour of West Belfast. Our programme includes a scheduled walking tour.
- Visit St George's Market for delicious food stalls, jewellery, and clothes. Open Thursday to Sunday.
- McConnell's Distillery located in the old Victorian Crumlin Road Gaol.
- The drama of Belfast. The Opera House,

the Lyric Theatre, Waterfront Hall. The Duncairn, The Limelight. Ulster Museum.

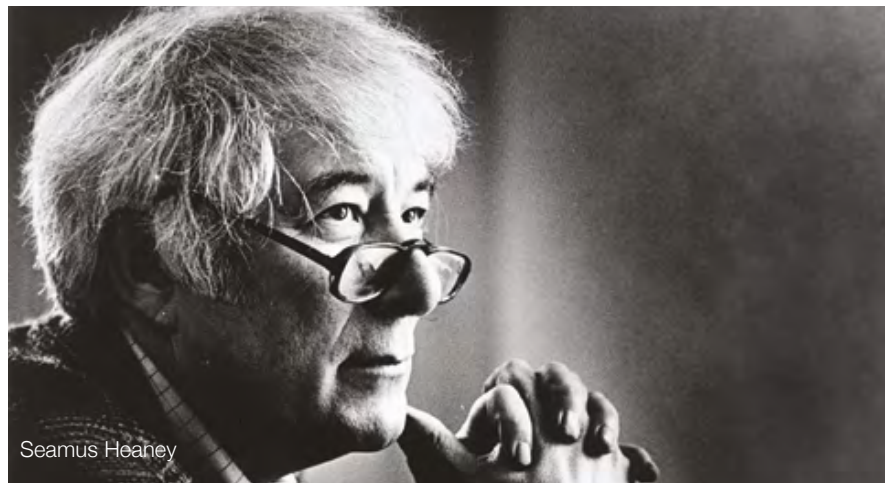
- Traditional music session. The life and soul of pubs down the years, fiddle, accordion, banjo, bodhran, pipes, pints and craic!
- The Cathedral Quarter in the city centre for a taste of Bohemian Belfast.
- Watch some hurling or Gaelic football at a GAA club in the City.
- The Titanic Quarter, visit the historical site where Harland and Wolff built the doomed ocean liner.

Seamus Heaney & Brian Friel

Seamus Heaney is an alumni of St Mary's, and he returned to the College to teach here for three years after graduating as a teacher. Brian Friel, one of Ireland's greatest playwrights, is also one of our distinguished alumni.

Belfast Rocks

Home to Van Morrison, Stiff Little Fingers, Gary Moore, Def Leppard's Vivian Campbell, and the Chieftains Derek Bell, Belfast has a lively music scene from rock and trad to punk, folk and rap.



Seamus Heaney



Belfast Traditional Music Trail



Crumlin Road Gaol

The small bird chirp-chirruped: yellow neb, a note-spurt. Blackbird over Lagan water, clumps of yellow whin-burst!

The Blackbird of Belfast Lough
Seamus Heaney



St Mary's University
College Belfast

...a whiskey you drank neat,
or with a hint of water to
bring out the flavour.

Ciaran Carson, from Last Night's Fun

McConnell's Distillery

Talks & Activities

MONDAY

11:00 am - Joe Welcome

Lecture by John Brolly & Professor Gerard McCann – Troubles Background. In our opening lecture, John Brolly and Professor Gerard McCann from St Mary's University College will set the scene for the Summer School's programme with an illuminating talk on the Troubles, the impact of the political conflict and how it has shaped Belfast and the west of the City and the Falls Road community in particular.

12.00 Noon - Irish Dancing.

Getting to know a jig from a reel and dance a hornpipe.

1.00 pm - Reclaiming Millie

'Life's always hard when you work as a Millie.' – Millie by Robert Wilson. In this fascinating talk, fashion designer Sara O'Neill will be in conversation with journalist Amanda Ferguson, exploring the character of Millie 'The Dreamer', the inspiration for her Éadach silk creations. In Belfast, Millie is the vernacular term for a female textile worker - a term of endearment or insult, depending on the context. Sara will discuss



Belfast Traditional Music Trail



Parliament Buildings, Stormont

her work and how, through collaboration with Women's Aid, the story of Ulster's female mill workers is reaching new audiences and celebrating our heritage. Sara has had her work featured in magazines, film and television campaigns, and exhibitions worldwide.

1.00 pm Joe McKelvey, Forgotten IRA leader & socialist

'For God's sake, finish me off.' Irish Republican, IRA Lieutenant General Joseph McKelvey was executed without trial in 1922 by the Irish Free State alongside Liam Mellows, Rory O'Connor and Richard Barrett as a reprisal for the shooting of a pro-treaty Dáil deputy Sean Hales. At the time of his botched execution, he was the anti-treaty prisoners' Officer Commanding in Mountjoy. Jim McVeigh, author of 'Goodbye Dearest Heart, the Life and Times of Joe McKelvey', explores the legacy of this largely forgotten IRA leader from Tyrone who moved to Belfast as a teenager.

3.00 pm LET'S TALK POLITICS

Leading political commentators David McCann, Freya McClements, Gavin Reilly, and Lee Reynolds will discuss the political issues of the day.

3.00 pm - Justice for the Forgotten anatomy of a massacre 17th May 1974: Pat Finucane Centre

"They were just instantly killed in the most horrific manner." On 17 May 1974 the Dublin/Monaghan bombings caused the

death of 34 people, with 258 badly injured, the highest death toll in any day of the conflict in Ireland. While the UVF claimed sole responsibility, there is compelling evidence that they acted with the support of British forces. This film focuses on the stories of survivors and relatives of the dead – ordinary lives changed in a split second.

5.00 pm INEZ - A Challenging Woman

"Leadership is not whether a woman can get power; it's what she does with it." Inez McCormack .

This is an award-winning film exploring the life of Inez McCormack, a trailblazing leader of the trade union movement who fought to ensure the rights of the most marginalised in the workplace and broader society. She was introduced to President Clinton as "the most important woman in Northern Ireland." A panel will discuss how her legacy lives today and will feature contributions from her daughter Anne and comrades in UNISON and PPR.

TUESDAY

11.00 am - Official Welcome by Belfast Lord Mayor

12.00 Noon - Lecture by Rev Bill Shaw & Fr Gary Donegan – 'How The Troubles Impacted Our Communities'

From their unique perspectives in the community in North Belfast Rev Bill Shaw and Father Gary Donegan share their insights on the impact of positive and

Talks & Activities

Continued

negative community relations.

1.00 pm - Untold Journeys: Refugees, Forced Displacement & the Northern Irish Conflict

“To broaden the spectrum of what is considered conflict-related violence and harm.” Niall Gilmartin and Brendan Browne’s new book ‘Untold Journeys’ explores the extraordinary but often overlooked stories of those forced from their homes during the recent conflict. With Danny Morrison and research participants, this panel discussion explores the impacts of displacement on people, families, and communities. Chair: Freya McClements.

3.00 pm - Reliquary of Blackness: Black Agency for Freedom Building in America

“The bitterest tears shed over graves are for words left unsaid and deeds left undone.” -Harriet Beecher Stowe. The Stowe Center for Literary Activism, recognises the need to engage in difficult conversations to build a better future. Erika Slocumb and Cat White will give a talk about how the Stowe Center is bringing their story into the 21st century, exploring how literary activism, building schools and Black cultural organisations gave Black people agency and a voice in shaping their future.

5.00 pm - Soul Searching



McConnell's Distillery



The Big Fish

Born in London to Jamaican parents, Siobhan Brown has lived here for most of her life since 1992. With an Irish name, Siobhan should have felt at home quite quickly, but “home” took a long time to reveal itself to her. A Soul singer searched her Soul’s depths for over three decades to find her community. Siobhan shares the impact of becoming an Irish citizen and the component parts that have helped “build” her community here. You’ll discover what part Soul has to play in it all.

WEDNESDAY

11.00 am - Racial Violence and the Context of the Rise of the Anti-Immigrant Hard Right in Ireland

In a panel discussion hosted by the

Committee on the Administration of Justice (CAJ), speakers include Liz Fekete, Institute of Race Relations; Shane O’Curry, Irish Network Against Racism (INAR); and US-based community safety practitioner Hilary Moore.

11.00 am - On the Edge or at the Centre? Putting Women at the Heart of Peacebuilding

Falls Community Council’s annual round- table event brings women from all communities together to discuss how working in solidarity, we can further women’s rights and build a peaceful society for our children and grandchildren. Stormont is back, and women are in charge! But how do we ensure grassroots women have a voice in the debate?



Black Taxi Tour



Belfast Traditional Music Trail

Refreshments will be served.

12.00 Noon - Introduction to Gaelic Games

Gaelic games are uniquely Irish and a central part of culture and identity in Ireland. Across the globe, Irish people and local communities gather to play Gaelic games. We offer an immersion in hurling skills and a feel for Gaelic football.

1.00 pm - A Cold House for Women: Gender and the Early Years of The Northern Ireland State with Margaret Ward

“Ward has done a magnificent job in reclaiming the names of the lesser known, indeed unknown activists.” The partition of Ireland is usually presented through a male lens. This talk brings to life women



Walking Tour

from different backgrounds looking at the impact of violence on women in Belfast, on the contribution of republican women who fought against partition and the Ulster Unionist women who would become members of the first parliament in the new Northern Ireland state. There were feminists who tried to improve life within this deeply conservative Protestant state, and others who crossed the border, making new lives in the south.

3.00pm - The Emperor is Naked

When one realises the game is rigged and always has been. When one sees through the corruption, the lies, the deceit, the hypocrisy of all wars, of big pharma, the



St Mary's University College Belfast

Talks & Activities

Continued

media and charity. When one sees the emperor is naked, one cannot unsee it. This show, *The Emperor is Naked*, includes observations on our world today told through the medium of poetry and video.

5.00 pm - Policing and Justice in a New Ireland

The panel will consider the challenges for policing and justice in a new Ireland, including the integration of structures, potential for reform and transformation, and dealing with the legacy of the conflict. They will consider what needs to be done to prepare for any constitutional change. Chaired by Journalist Allison Morris, with panellists Professor John Doyle, DCU; Linda Dillon, Sinn Féin MLA; and Professor Cian O'Concubhair, Maynooth College.

5.00 pm - The LGBTQIA+ Movement in The North of Ireland: Where Are We Now?

This event explores the history of the



Titanic Hotel

LGBTQIA+ movement in the North since 1998 and addresses where the movement stands today. The panel will take a deep-dive into campaigns over the past 25 years, hearing from those involved in the early stages of the movement, to those covering policy issues today.

7.00 pm - West Belfast Talks Back

Féile an Phobail's flagship event, where the audience gets an opportunity to ask questions on topical issues from a panel that will include Joe Brolly, Amanda Ferguson, Paul Maskey MP and Allison

Morris. Chaired by Vincent Kearney.

THURSDAY - PALESTINE DAY

Keynote speaker: Wieland Hoban.

Chair of Judische Stimme, Jewish Voice for a Just Peace in the Middle East. Founded in 2003 as the German section of European Jews for a Just Peace (EJJP) and one of the organisers of the recent Palestine Congress in Berlin which was shut down by police after only half an hour, after weeks of smears and incitement from press and politicians.

Keynote speaker: Nur ad-Din Masalha.

A Palestinian writer, academic and historian



McConnell's Distillery

and author of 'Palestine: A Four Thousand Year History', 'The Palestine Nakba' and many other titles. *Organised by Ireland Palestine Solidarity Campaign.*

11.00 am - Traditional Irish music session – tin whistle and bodhran

12:00 Noon – Introduction to the Irish language

Bhuel, cad é mar atá tú?
An bhfuil tú go maith?
Cúpla focal?
Learn some Gaelic phrases to get you started with this introduction to Irish.

2.00 pm- Walking Tour. The Joint Falls / Shankill tour meeting point: Coiste's Mural, Divis Tower, Divis Street

Join a 3-hour walking tour led by former activists, uncovering the history of the Anglo-Irish conflict through stories and visits to significant sites.

5.00 pm McConnell's Distillery experience at Crumlin Road Gaol

Established in 1776, McConnell's was the name that delighted whisky-lovers

St Mary's University College Belfast

around the world for over 150 years. Now the Legend is Reborn. By the early years of the 19th century, in terms of volume alone, Belfast had far outstripped those other great centres of Irish distilling, Cork and Dublin. Following its decline and disappearance, McConnell's Whisky is back and is Belfast Born again.

FRIDAY

10.00 am – Titanic Hotel

Harland & Wolff's Headquarters have been restored to their former splendour, and Titanic Hotel Belfast is proud to welcome visitors into this architecturally spectacular and historically significant building.

Exhibited throughout the hotel are over 500 artworks and photographs, including passenger portraits and authentic White Star Line memorabilia from the Titanic era.

12 Noon – Titanic Exhibition Tour

To conclude our visit, Titanic Belfast CEO will welcome us for a tour of the exhibition.

Friday Afternoon - Explore Belfast

Free time for you to explore Belfast city.

SATURDAY

Giants Causeway and Carrick-a-Rede Rope Bridge

Following in the footsteps of giants, we will visit the Giant's Causeway, a UNESCO World Heritage Site with its stunning hexagonal basalt rock formation stretching into the sea towards Scotland. The Causeway offers dramatic clifftop views and unique geological formations created by volcanic activity. We will also visit the Carrick-a-Rede rope bridge – a thrilling 20 metre walk across the traditional rope bridge stretched 30 meters above the waves crashing below. Will your nerves get you across to the ancient salmon fishery on the other side? And



The Giants Causeway, built by Finn McCool

International Summer School

McConnell's Distillery Belfast Born & Bred since 1776

McConnell's Irish Whisky established by J&J McConnells, their Old Cromac Distillery graced the lands along the southern side of the River Lagan, in Belfast. Over the years, the distillery produced the world renowned McConnell's Irish Whisky.

Prohibition in the United States in the 1930s put McConnell's out of business, but the famous brand is returning to its former glories.

McConnells now perform their unique alchemy of creating liquid gold from barley and water in the historic surroundings of Belfast's notorious former Gaol on the Crumlin Road.

The Distillery is located in the historic A-wing of Crumlin Road Gaol in Belfast. The Gaol has a rich and storied history, former inmates include Eamon de Valera, Martin McGuinness, Bobby Sands, and Dr Ian Paisley.

Throughout the Troubles, many political prisoners, both loyalists and republicans/nationalists, were interned in the 'Crum'. It was also the location of the last execution by hanging in Northern Ireland in 1961.



International Summer School

The St Mary's Experience

St Mary's is proud of an ethos that nurtures for students, is rewarding for faculty and welcomes visitors.

Our firm goal is for all who work or study in the College, and those who visit us - including our Summer School participants - to experience a distinctive and historic institution which believes in the power of education to transform lives, overcome disadvantage and contribute positively to humanity.

Faith in educational opportunity defines both our history and our future. The College is located in the diverse, friendly, and vibrant Falls Road, in West Belfast. We take enormous pride in our continuing contribution to our community.

"Education is the practice of freedom, the means by which individuals deal critically and creatively with reality and discover how to participate in the transformation of their world." Paulo Freire



Introduction to Gaelic Games

Gaelic Games are uniquely Irish and a central part of culture and identity in Ireland. They are now played worldwide where Irish people are gathered. We offer an immersion in the skills of hurling and a feel for Gaelic games.

There are six different games in the family of Gaelic Games. These are Hurling, Gaelic football, Handball, Rounders, Camogie and Ladies Football. Your taster session will focus on an introduction to the basic skills of Gaelic football and hurling/camogie.



St Mary's University College Belfast

A Real Community Spirit

Our flagship August Féile showcases the vibrant, creative and unique spirit at the heart of West Belfast.

People here have a love for the sounds of our city: the spoken word, the rhyme of poetry and the rhythm of song,

"The atmosphere and real sense of community spirit at Féile is unrivalled. In its 35th year, the Féile is the largest community festival and summer school in Ireland, a tribute to all that have made this possible."

For many visitors Belfast is an unopened book, each year we add a new chapter to engage and entertain friends old and new. Our visitors are stunned at the sheer breadth of activities, events and engagements. Through the celebrations at the core of

the Féile there are opportunities for learning and understanding.

The city is still emerging from years of conflict and new challenges await us all. Any means to understand each other is to be embraced. Féile provides a catalyst and a synergy through everything from pop-up theatre, children's events, concerts, sports, discussions, debates, visual arts, theatre, tours and walks, literature readings and film screenings that are woven into the Féile programme.

We are delighted to welcome our Summer School participants, we can learn from one another through shared experiences and friendship.



Where I have dipped to drink again, to be Faithful to the admonishment on her cup, Remember the Giver fading off the lip.

A Drink of Water, Seamus Heaney





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