Conference of Irish Organizations
Saturday 1 October 2011, Irish Cultural Center of New England

Programme

8.15am  Bus pickup in at Back Bay Hotel, 350 Stuart Street, Boston

9.30am  Continental Breakfast Buffet

10.00am Welcome remarks: Tom Gallagher, President, Irish Cultural Center of New England

Official opening remarks: Michael Lonergan, Consul General of Ireland

Conference Moderator: Bill McNally, Irish Cultural Center of New England

10.15am  Panel on Social Media, Email and Internet Presence

Kevin Mulcahy, Boston Irish Film Festival
Patrick O’Malley, Social Media speaker
Connell Gallagher, Irish Emigrant

11.00am  Coffee break

11.15am  Panel on Fundraising and Resource Development

Fran Dillon, Stonehill College
Peter Rice, Eastern Bank
Bridget Fantini, MIT

12.00pm  Panel on Events and Program Management

Russell McNiff and Gerald Healy, Saint Patrick’s Committee of Holyoke, Inc.
Brian O’Donovan, WGBH/Celtic Sojourn
12.45pm Buffet Lunch

1.45pm Panel on **Migration, Audience Identification and Community Issues**
- Sr. Lena Deevy, Irish International Immigrant Center
- Kieran O’Sullivan, Irish Pastoral Centre
- Jack Meehan, Boston Irish Group
- Deirdre Ní Fhailín, Irish Consulate

2.30pm Special Guest speaker – Dave McLaughlin, VSnap

   **“Working Better Together”**

3.15pm Closing remarks by Moderator, Bill McNally

3.20pm Conference ends

**ICCNE tour – cottage, video**
**Coffee and Scones in the ICC Pub**

4.00pm Bus departs for Boston, drop-off at Irish Consulate

5.00pm Pre-dinner drinks reception, Irish Consulate

7.00pm Buffet dinner, Back Bay Hotel

9.30pm Bus departs for ICCNE, Canton from Back Bay Hotel
1st Annual Conference of Irish Organizations Speakers Biographies:

Name: Kieran C. O Sullivan
Title: Immigration and US Citizenship Counselor, Irish Pastoral Centre
Bio: Kieran C. O Sullivan works as an Immigration and US Citizenship Counselor at the Irish Pastoral Centre in Dochester. Originally from County Kerry, he has worked on immigration issues since 1996. He provides assistance to Irish immigrants seeking help on US visas and citizenship. As an activist, he has participated in advocacy efforts at state and national level. As a speaker on Irish immigration issues, he has appeared on CNN, Fox, CBS, WBZ, Voice of America, RTE and other networks. He has also addressed national conferences including the Coalition of Irish Immigration Centers USA (CIIC) and NAFSA - the International Student Advisors Association - where he presented on criminal arrests and their effects on immigration status.

Name: Brian O'Donovan
Title: Broadcaster, Concert Promoter
Bio: Born in West Cork, Ireland, Brian O’Donovan has lived in the Boston area since 1980. He is well known broadcaster in the US with one of the best-known public media entities in the U.S, WGBH. He is also a producer and concert promoter working extensively in the folk/Celtic music genre. His weekly three hour radio program, A Celtic Sojourn, is heard throughout New England and has built a sizable internet audience in recent years. With WGBH, he produces yearly series of Christmas Concerts each December which in recent years, have drawn in excess of 10,000 people. He also leads a yearly “Learning Tour” to Ireland with a particular focus on traditional music. He has produced a PBS distributed TV program on Christmas music, narrated two PBS documentaries, and was the associate producer of a third on the subject of Northern Ireland’s peace process.

Name: Dave McLaughlin (Special Guest Speaker)
Title: Cofounder & CEO of Vsnap
Bio: Dave McLaughlin is Cofounder & CEO of Vsnap, a platform for sending short video messages with attachments. Vsnap launches this fall. Formerly, Dave was Cofounder of Fig, a mobile payments startup acquired by PayPal in April 2011. He was also Cofounder and Executive Director of Boston World Partnerships, which pioneered a web 2.0 approach to economic development. Dave is the former Director of Marketing for the City of Boston and is an award-winning filmmaker and playwright, and serves on the Board of Advisors for the Irish Film Festival of Boston.
Name: Jack Meehan
Title: Boston Irish Group representative

Bio: Jack Meehan is a life-long resident of the Greater Boston area. He currently resides with his wife, Maire in Quincy, MA. They also enjoy spending time at their homes in St. Petersburg, FL and Inverin, Co. Galway, Ireland. Jack took advantage of an early retirement opportunity from the Boston Edison Co. some years ago after 37 years service. He and his son, Kevin operate Claddagh Properties, Ltd., a family owned real estate business in Quincy, MA. He is a member and ardent supporter of several fraternal organizations including the Knights of Columbus, the American Legion, the Quincy Lodge of Elks, the Irish Pastoral Centre of Boston, the Irish Cultural Center of New England, Cumann na Gaeilge i mBoston, a life member of the Utility Workers Union of America, Local #369, a life member and Past President of Tomas Cardinal O’Fiaich Div. #14, Watertown, MA, Past Massachusetts State President, and a life member and Past National President of the Ancient Order of Hibernians in America. He is also an occasional contributor to local Boston area papers as well as to Irish news publications.

Name: Bridget Fantini
Title: Leadership Giving Officer, MIT

Bio: Bridget Fantini is a Leadership Giving Officer in MIT’s Philanthropic division where she focuses on individual giving for Institute-wide initiatives. Prior to joining MIT, Fantini was the Regional Director at The American Ireland Fund in Boston, raising funds for various projects throughout the island of Ireland. Fantini began her career in financial services with Putnam Investments where she spent a number of years working in consultant relations and marketing before moving onto the start-up, WorldStreet Corporation, managing their strategic account with Deutsche Bank. Fantini sits on the boards of IN Boston and The Irish Pastoral Center. She holds a B.S. from Colby-Sawyer College and received her M.B.A from Trinity College in Dublin.

Name: Patrick O’Malley
Title: Owner, 617-PATRICK

Bio: Patrick O’Malley loves and lives Social Media, and can show you how to utilize it to get new sales or improve your business. You can see a sample video of his bizarre excitement about it at http://www.patrickomalley.com/He is a nationally known expert on LinkedIn, Twitter, Facebook, YouTube, and Google SEO. He is also a regular contributor to Fox TV News as a social media and Internet expert. Previously, he was the VP of Operations for the search engine that was Google's top competitor in the year 2000 (Northern Light). His phone number is actually 617-PATRICK, which he thinks is cool.

Name: Francis Dillion
Title: Vice President for Advancement, Stonehill College

Bio: As Vice President for Advancement, Francis X. Dillon oversees a staff of 28 professionals and support staff and directs the College’s development, alumni, communications, media relations and external relations programs. Under his leadership, the College raised $59.5 million for the Attaining the Summit comprehensive fundraising campaign, exceeding the targeted goal of $55 million. The campaign supported a new Science Center, academic initiatives, including
three academic chairs, scholarships, athletic enhancements, including the W.B. Mason Stadium, and other College priorities. Dillon also led Stonehill’s first capital campaign Securing the Vision, which successfully raised over $23 million. Thanks to that campaign, the College was able to build the architecturally-acclaimed, MacPhaidin Library. A Stonehill alumnus, Dillon holds an M. Ed. in educational administration from Suffolk University.

Name: Russell J. McNiff

Title: President, St. Patrick's Committee of Holyoke, Inc.

Bio: Russ is a 30 year member of the organization. He has served on many of the major committees as an Officer and as a member of their Board of Directors. In 2009 he received the distinguished Thomas F. Rohan Award for “Outstanding and devoted service” to the committee. A native of Holyoke, he resides with his wife Terri (Buskey) McNiff.

Name: Gerald D. Healy

Title: St. Patrick's Committee of Holyoke, Inc.

Bio: He was born in London, England to Irish parents, Michael and Bridget (Dowd) Healy. The family survived World War II and immigrated to Holyoke Massachusetts in 1949. A 37 year member of the Holyoke St. Patrick's Committee, he has served on most committees. He was awarded the Gallivan Award in 1986, served as President in 2002, and was the Grand Marshal in 2011. Gerry is the designer of the Holyoke St. Patrick's tartan. In 1984, he was instrumental in reviving the West Springfield contingent to be recognized and one of the best in the Parade. Gerry was a six year member of the Board of Directors of the Irish Cultural Center at Elms College, serving as President for two of those years. He is also a member of the James A. Curran Division of the Ancient Order of Hibernians.

Name: Peter D. Rice

Title: SVP Retail Eastern Bank

Bio: Peter Rice is responsible for Eastern Bank’s retail foot print throughout Boston and the South Shore, encompassing all areas of sales, service, operations and community development. Peter is a native of Corduff in West Dublin and is a graduate from University of Ulster with a BA HONS in Business with Japanese. In 1996 Peter was selected as the Monbusho Scholar to Okinawa International University. Peter is also a graduate of Furman Universities/Consumer Bank Associations Graduate School of Retail Banking and is currently pursuing a MS in Finance at Harvard University. Peter’s early experiences growing up in Dublin have led to a life long commitment to social justice and community development. Currently, Peter serves as the Vice Chair of the Boys and Girls Club Metro West, is a board member for the Irish International Immigration Center, Catholic Charities and the Neponset Valley Chamber of Commerce. Peter has been actively involved throughout his time in Japan and the US in all matters relating to
Ireland and the development of strong links with the Diaspora. Currently Peter Lives in Marlborough Massachusetts with his Wife Mari and their son Peadar Og.

**Name: Sister Lena Deevy**

**Title:** Executive Director, Irish International Immigration Center

**Bio:** Sister Lena Deevy came to the USA in 1988 as a mid-career student at Harvard’s School of Education where she received a Master’s degree. As part of her studies she studied immigration and completed a research project on undocumented Irish immigrants. As a part of the research she interviewed very many Irish in this situation, and was introduced to dedicated groups of Irish & Irish Americans who ran a small self-help volunteer organization to assist with jobs, housing, healthcare, and the difficulties the undocumented faced in times of crises. Two years later Sister Deevy became its first Executive Director.

**Name: Annie Everson**

**Title:** Advertising and Marketing Manager at the Newport Convention and Visitors Bureau

**Bio:** Annie Everson is the Advertising and Marketing Manager at the Newport Convention and Visitors Bureau. Annie has worked at the CVB more than six years and is the placer of puzzle pieces and navigator of the social web. In her current role, she is responsible for all aspects of the Bureau's advertising programs, its social media program and graphic design projects. Annie is also responsible for maintaining the destination's image bank. Previous to the CVB, she worked at the Newport Harbor Corporation. She has also contributed to many projects and events including Newport Restaurant Week, the Kinsale Festival of Fine Foods and most recently, had the opportunity to travel to Kinsale, Ireland to assist with the first ever National Chowder Cook-Off. A graduate of the University of Rhode Island, Annie studied international marketing while abroad in London. She has served as co-chair of the City of Newport Energy and Environment Commission and in her free time enjoys skiing, traveling and cooking. She currently resides in Barrington, Rhode Island.

**Name: Kevin Mulcahy**

**Title:** Boston Irish Festival

**Bio:** Kevin has been on the Board of Advisors of the Boston Irish Film Festival for the past 3 years. He was a core member of the Festival’s marketing sub-committee that implemented an upgraded digital strategy for the festival. The Festival’s new digital strategy involved a complete revamp of the festival website, upgrading the email capabilities and maintaining the Festival’s social media presence on Facebook and Twitter. An Irish native, Kevin received his undergraduate degree from Trinity College Dublin and a graduate degree from Boston College. He now leads the technology practice at Fuld & Company, a Cambridge based consulting firm.
Name: Deirdre Ní Fhallaíin

Title: Vice Consul, Consulate General of Ireland, Boston

Bio: Deirdre Ní Fhallaíin has been Vice Consul in Boston for the last three years. Prior to this posting she spent four years in Brussels at the Permanent Representation of Ireland to the European Union. She has also served in the Human Rights Unit and the Consular Division of the Department of Foreign Affairs in Dublin. A graduate of Dublin City University she holds a B.Sc. Finance, Computing and Enterprise (an Irish language medium degree) and an M.A. in International Relations.

Name: Bill McNally, Moderator

Title: Principal, The McNally Group

Bio: Bill is the Principal in The McNally Group, which provides development assistance and legal counsel to educational organizations, charitable foundations and new business ventures. His focus is on helping growing organizations develop and implement strategies for resource growth. Representative clients in Ireland include educational institutions at second and third level, a cancer research centre, and several arts and music organizations, among others. Bill also served as the first Executive Director of The American Ireland Fund from 1982-1992. The American Ireland Fund is a public charitable organization which raises funds in the United States to support projects which promote peace, reconciliation and education in Ireland and Northern Ireland. He currently serves as Legal Counsel to the organization, and as a member of its Board of Directors. Bill is on the Board of the Irish Cultural Centre and also serves as its Counsel.