



### What past participants have said:

*Even when I slept, I dreamed of old Irish stories. There were reasons to write everywhere.* ~Andi Fekete, 2012

*To hear Dear Life Dennis O'Driscoll at The Dublin Writers' Festival and to sit a few feet from Seamus Heaney and Roddy Doyle at The Irish Writers' Centre, reading their work on Bloomsday—incredible. I loved it!* ~Zach Williams, 2012

*I stood on the James Joyce House staircase like Gretta in "The Dead," received a kiss from Jeannette Winterson at The Dublin Writers' Festival, dipped my toes in the sea at Dun Laoghaire, grew silent at Kilmainham Jail, and tied a scrap of my red scarf to a Hill of Tara fairy tree to leave a bit of me in Ireland and come home with a bit of Ireland in me.* ~Shauna Jones, 2012

*Excitement of museums, theaters, bookshops of Dublin, then the peace of the west of Ireland, where even the donkeys, cows, and sheep pace themselves. Perfect for a writer.* ~Joyce Allan, 2014

*Long twilights, verdant fields, walks in Dublin, country lanes by the sea, Neolithic artists at Newgrange, Oscar Wilde at The Gate, dark ale and Irish stew. And there was time—time to observe, appreciate, dream, write. The whole trip—luminous!* ~Marilyn Stearns, 2014

*Private writing workshop with Irish novelist, playwright, and poet Dermot Bolger in his Dublin home inspired us with prompts and Irish coffees; Galway Bay's breathtaking views; extraordinary breakfasts and heaping helpings of the Doolin Folk Festival (Luka Bloom, Finbar Furey) first favorites—to think we decided the very last minute to go!* ~Dee Sydnor, 2016

*Fell in love with Dublin, lost my heart to Galway City, the Aran Island Inis Mor, and Irish poet Nicholas McLachlan at Salmon Poetry, Co. Clare. I would go again in a heartbeat.* ~David Evans, 2016

*Treading the cobblestone alleys Joyce walked, searching for descendants of the Yeats swans at Coole Park, rambling The Cliffs of Moher, visiting Salmon Bookshop and Literary Centre, a veritable temple to contemporary Irish poetry – there wasn't an uninspiring moment.* ~Phill Provance, 2018

### LONG-TERM IN-COUNTRY FACULTY



**Maeve O'Sullivan**, journalist, poet, musician, Media Communications Lecturer at the College of Rathmines, Dublin, has published four books of poems, *Elsewhere*, *Vocal Chords*, *Initial Response*, *A Train Hurtles West*, and, in partnership with Kim Richardson, a haiku collection, *Double Rainbow*.



**Kevin Hora**, Ph.D. History, Trinity College, author of *Propaganda and Nation Building: Selling the Irish Free State*, (Routledge), was Media Communications/Business Lecturer at the College of Rathmines. Now faculty at Dublin Institute of Technology, School of Media, he lectures publicly on the literary and socio-political background of Irish independence. *The Pornographer's Model*, his first collection of short stories, was published in May 2019.

### RECENT GUEST FACULTY

**Dermot Bolger**, celebrated novelist, playwright, poet, short story writer, editor and publisher, recently adapted



James Joyce's *Ulysses* for the stage. It ran successfully at The Abbey Theatre, Dublin Theatre Festival in 2017 and returned by popular demand in 2018. Underscoring his reputation as one of the most beloved and accessible of contemporary Irish writers, Bolger arranged for three nights of free tickets for all comers. His latest book is a recreation of his father's naval experiences during World War I.

**Nicholas McLachlan** has published *80-MPH: A Festschrift for Leland Bardwell* and *Ildána*, a bi-lingual collection of



West Kerry artists and writers. His short story "Hands" won the Martin Healy Award, and *The Rain Barrel*, his debut poetry collection, was published by Salmon Poetry in 2015.



**Claire Keegan** is the author of two short story collections, *Antarctica* and *Walk the Blue Fields*, and the Davy Byrnes Prize Winner, "Foster." Her many literary awards include the Rooney Prize for Irish Literature, the inaugural William Trevor Prize, The Hugh Leonard Bursary, and the Francis MacManus Award. Her new novel, *The Forester's Daughter* (Faber & Faber) was published in 2019.

# The Ireland Residency

## West Virginia Wesleyan MFA

### Summer 2020



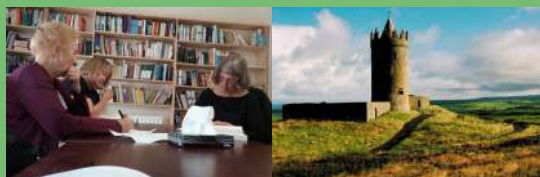
[www.wvc.edu/MFA](http://www.wvc.edu/MFA)

**DEVON McNAMARA** has published poetry, essays, reviews and interviews in *The Christian Science Monitor*, *The Hiram Poetry Review*, and *The Laurel Review*, created and hosted the West Virginia Public Radio college course, Women and Literature, and is a member of the English faculty of West Virginia Wesleyan College and the MFA program. Her poetry collection, *Driving*, is forthcoming from Salmon Poetry.



## THE FIFTH BIENNIAL IRISH RESIDENCY May 29-June 7, 2020

**CURRICULUM:** Students complete advance reading and submit a project proposal for the trip. After returning to the United States, students turn in a piece of writing relating to or inspired by the travel experience and also submit a personal evaluation/summation of their participation in the project. Pass/fail grades are assigned. Sample projects have included short stories, a poetry collection, memoir, and impressions of Ireland through its writers, its history, its cultural life—portraits of Irish citizens of all generations.



**CREDITS:** This residency fulfills two two-hour courses\* (ENGL 520/525, ENGL 530/ 535, or ENGL 540/ 545, depending on genre). MFA graduates, student spouses/friends, and other non-degree persons may apply to audit (auditors attend programming, but are not required to complete a project).

**RESIDENCY EQUIVALENCY:** Although the Ireland Residency replaces one on-campus residency\*, students are encouraged (but not required) to attend the subsequent summer residency, with tuition waived, paying only room and board; if attending the summer on-campus residency, full participation is expected. Students may also come to campus for fewer days to meet with their fall advisor.

*\*Because of fundamental work completed at a student's first residency and because of the nature of fifth-residency requirements, the Ireland Residency cannot serve as a student's first or final (fifth) residency.*

Devon McNamara, Project Director  
mcmamara@wwc.edu  
Doug Van Gundy, MFA Director  
mfa@wwc.edu

**TUITION:** Tuition is equal to that of an on-campus residency: 4 credits X \$475 = \$1900. The auditing fee is \$800.

**ESTIMATED COSTS BEYOND TUITION:** This amount includes lodging, events, and most transit costs (e.g. ferry and train tickets). Flight, meals & miscellany are not included here—estimates are \$1100 for flight, \$275 for meals, \$100 for misc; amounts vary according to individual preferences.

Because group costs (for lodging, events, most transit) are shared, costs lower as the group size increases:  
**4-5 students attending=\$2500 per student**  
**6-7 students attending=\$2200 per student**  
**8 students attending=\$1900 per student**

If the trip is canceled, students are fully refunded; if students decide later not to take the trip, they receive only a partial refund.

### TIMELINE:

**DECEMBER 1:** Passport number and \$1000 deposit due.

**JANUARY 31:** Balance due (*costs beyond tuition depend on number of participants*).

**FEBRUARY 15:** Flights booked individually, observing assigned time windows for arrival into Dublin (May 28) and departure from Shannon (June 8).

**MAY 1:** Reading & packing lists, Ireland Guest Faculty, and finalized itinerary announced.

**MAY 15:** Project proposal due.

**JULY 1:** Final projects due.



Jessie Lendennie,  
Salmon Poetry Founder,  
Publisher, and Editor

A typical MFA Irish Residency begins in Dublin—with writing workshops, lively lectures, theater, museums, galleries, city life past and present, and a day trip into the Neolithic at Newgrange.

Next: train to Galway City for the beauty of Galway Bay, Coole Park, bookshops, readings, theater, and a ferry to the Aran Islands.

Finale in Doolin, Co. Clare, with a writing workshop at Salmon Poetry and Literary Center, home of Jessie Lendennie (Founder/Publisher/Editor), Ennistymon, a Burren tour, the Cliffs of Moher, and a farewell dinner at Ballinalacken on Galway Bay.

Plan on beauty, music, good company, freedom, *and time and space to write.*

*(Itinerary evolves in conversation with participating students and is finalized the May preceding the trip.)*

