Ireland Subject Of College’s Themed Semester

NWACC Will Host Irish Performers, Discussions On History, Culture

BENTONVILLE, Ark. (Jan. 25, 2012) – Ireland is the focus of NorthWest Arkansas Community College’s Themed Semester this spring. Performances by Irish folk singer Peg Roach Loyd and the McCafferty School of Irish Dance, and discussions about racial stereotyping, the Catholic-Protestant conflict and the Irish potato famine highlight the semester’s planned events.

At the opening activity, Thomas Kennedy will present a lecture titled, “Ireland: Celtic Tiger or Prisoner of War, an Overview” from 1:30 to 3 p.m. Monday, Jan. 30, in room 108 of the Student Center on the NWACC campus in Bentonville. Kennedy is professor emeritus of the Department of History at the University of Arkansas. He is the former president and program chair of the Western Conference on British Studies and the President of the Friends Historical Society in Great Britain.

All events are free and open to the public. This is the fourth Themed Semester celebrated at NWACC.

“We have a full semester planned,” said April Brown, NWACC Honors Program coordinator and Ireland 2012 events coordinator. The Honors Program has organized the themed semester since 2009.

“It’s a good balance between serious academic discussions and pop culture,” Brown said. The goal of the themed semester concept is to make people more aware about other cultures and peoples, according to Brown. The semester aligns with the college’s mission to provide global learning opportunities for its students and the community.

In addition to the special events, NWACC faculty members incorporate some aspect of the theme into their curricula. Many faculty are reading Irish authors or discussing Irish immigration to the United States. Math faculty member Michael Zelin has his students write a paper about famous Irish mathematicians and their research. The students’ work will ultimately be posted to a website for users to view a gallery of Irish scientists and engineers.
Student art and short story contests as well as a 10-day trip to Ireland have also been planned. Community members are invited to join participants on the May 2012 trip.

Past themed semesters have focused on Southeast Asia, the Caribbean, and Native America. For a list of events and to find out more about Ireland, visit the Ireland 2012 website at https://www.nwacc.edu/web/themedsemester.

For questions or further information on Ireland 2012 or the trip to Ireland, contact April Brown at 619-2231 or albrown@nwacc.edu.

NorthWest Arkansas Community College is a comprehensive, public two-year college that serves and strengthens the community through learning for living. NWACC's service area is defined by the Arkansas Department of Higher Education as Benton and Washington counties in extreme northwest Arkansas. The commitment of NWACC to life-long learning can be seen in the quality of instruction it offers, and the variety of programs it has designed to move students into the job market in a minimum amount of time, enrich people's lives, and prepare them to further their education. For more information, visit www.nwacc.edu.