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The Newsletter of the Virginia Foundation for the Humanities | Winter 2003

Who's coming to Virginia?

What do people in Ireland, California, Australia, Canada, and Texas have in common?

They're all coming to Virginia for two flagship programs of the Virginia Foundation for the Humanities: the *Virginia Festival of the Book* in March (one of the top tourism draws in the state) and *Re-Imagining Ireland* in May (a unique four-day international conference).

The increasing state-wide and national popularity of the annual *Virginia Festival of the Book* draws hundreds of writers and thousands of readers who descend on Charlottesville

for a five-day celebration of literacy and book culture. Festival dates are March 19–23.

Among the guests this year are John Dos Passos Prize-winner Lee Smith, Virginia poet and activist Nikki Giovanni, and international bestseller John Grisham. The *VABook! 2003* roster also includes the current Virginia Poet Laureate George Garrett and former U.S. Poet Laureate Rita Dove.

Then on May 7–10, Americans from around the country and Irish from across the sea will converge on Charlottesville to take part in *Re-Imagining Ireland*, a groundbreaking international “town meeting” of Ireland, out

of Ireland—an opportunity to discuss the past and present, and build bridges to the future.

This unique gathering—with a keynote address to be presented by the President of Ireland, Mary McAleese—will explore the emergence of Ireland as a modern and prosperous yet traditional culture, a window through which global changes can be clearly seen. More than 100 journalists, writers, politicians, artists, scholars, musicians, and citizen activists will discuss how the Ireland of the future can emerge as a compassionate and vital society that creates itself anew, while preserving the strengths of its heritage. Events will be held at various locations in downtown Charlottesville and at the University of Virginia.

For complete information on featured guests, program schedules, and registration processes for *VABook! 2003* and *Re-Imagining Ireland*, see pages 6–9 in this newsletter.



Andrew Bennett as “Foley” (above), one of the arts productions that will be showcased at *Re-Imagining Ireland*. (Courtesy The Corn Exchange)

Authors Barbara Ehrenrich and Ben Cheever discuss their books on the nature of work in America, at *VABook! 2002*.





WINTER 2003

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“I’ve started to read a novel for myself!”

Five Years of Motherread and Fatherread in Virginia

This quotation is from one of hundreds of parents whose lives have been changed by reading in the Motherread and Fatherread (MR & FR) family literacy program of the VFH, now celebrating its fifth anniversary.

Essential to the VFH mission is the goal that every Virginian will have access to good literature and experience the power that literature provides to shape and inform daily life. Through MR & FR, literature and book discussion programs are offered to adults, using children’s literature as the focus of discussion.

Since the first Training Institute in January 1999, more than 200 individuals have become certified MR & FR facilitators. These facilitators lead book discussion groups throughout the Commonwealth from the Eastern Shore to Southwest Virginia and from Northern Virginia to Southside.

In a transitional housing program in Washington County, mothers and fathers reading *Three Billy Goats Gruff* focused on the need to work together as a family during the transition from homelessness into a more stable living environment.

In Fairfax County, the MR & FR curriculum has been incorporated into Adult Education English as a Second Language classes at eight different sites, with three more sites to be added this spring. The Fairfax County Public Library Foundation provides books for the classes. In

addition, the Library Foundation serves a number of schools, parenting centers, health and social service organizations, and the Office for Child Care Providers, where child care providers receive certification from the state for their participation in MR & FR.

The city of Hampton has certified MR & FR facilitators in the Department of Social Services to help children in at-risk families reach grade-level reading proficiency by third grade. Other participants will collaborate to provide the programs through schools, the library, Peninsula Reads, and Healthy Families Partnership parent education.

Within the Virginia Department of Juvenile Correctional Education, MR & FR is being used in classes for students with low literacy skills, in the social skills curriculum, in math class, in music class, and with the young parents who are incarcerated.

In Hampton Roads, five different agencies—Newport News Public Library System, HeadStart, Hampton Public Library, Living Interface Network (LINK), and Peninsula Reads—working across three governmental boundaries joined forces to implement an MR & FR book discussion group in a public housing community.



Recognizing the impact in the lives of the people of Newport News, the Library System has begun a year-long planning process to incorporate MR & FR into its regular schedule of programs.

Our initial investment in training renews itself year after year as the facilitators work with groups of adults who, in turn, share with their own families an appreciation for literature in daily life. Since implementing Motherread and Fatherread, the VFH has expanded its audience and venues for humanities programming.

Participants in a bilingual Motherread and Fatherread Program.
(Photo courtesy Nelson County Migrant Education)



Exploring Virginia's Musical Traditions

BY DAVID BEARINGER

On a gray, chilly afternoon in late November, Jon Lohman and I are sitting with Wayne Henderson at his home in Grayson County, listening as he talks about his work, his mentors, and the guitar he made from a cardboard box and a stick more than 40 years ago.

Wayne is now widely regarded as one of the best traditional musicians and instrument makers in the United States. He is also one of only five Virginians to receive a National Heritage Fellowship—the highest honor this country bestows on its traditional artists.

In one way or another, each of the other four Heritage Fellowship recipients has been part of long-term efforts by the VFH to broaden public understanding and appreciation of Virginia's musical traditions. Old-time music legend Ralph Stanley is the subject of a VFH-supported documentary film (produced by Appalshop) exploring the connections between his music and the culture of Southwest Virginia. African American blues guitarists John Jackson and John Cephas were featured in the Piedmont Guitarists Tour, organized by the VFH in 1988.

Flory Jagoda, the sole bearer of Eastern Europe's once-vibrant Sephardic ballad tradition, is part of the first group of master artists in our newly established Folklife Apprenticeship Program. And now, we have the privilege of watching Wayne Henderson, master artist and craftsman in the Blue Ridge tradition, play the guitar he finished only a few days before. We hope that soon he too will become a partner in the Foundation's work.

Since the early 1990s, the

Virginia Foundation has awarded dozens of grants supporting efforts to preserve, document, and present the musical heritage of Virginia and its communities. Many of these have been used to broaden access to existing archival collections, or to create new ones. Others have been used to produce educational programs that interpret musical traditions and cultures—an exhibit on Blue Ridge Instrument Makers produced by Ferrum College, and a publication by the James River Blues Society entitled *Traditional Blues in Virginia*, for example. Still others have enabled scholars to conduct important field research or create new documentary recordings.

Recent VFH grants have supported fieldwork in preparation for the 2003 Smithsonian Folklife Festival (Birthplace of Country Music Alliance) and production of two CDs with interpretive liner notes featuring traditional African American banjo players from Virginia (Center for the Development of Social Responsibility). Our funds helped Mountain Empire Community College to create a five-CD anthology drawn from more than 30 years of recording traditional music and storytelling performances at the Home Craft Days festival in Big Stone Gap. We have also supported interpretive exhibits and publications on



Master guitarist and instrument-maker Wayne Henderson of Grayson County, with one of his newest creations. (Photo by Jan Lohman)

the early recording industry in Southwest Virginia (Blue Ridge Institute) and a four-part radio series on the musical and cultural influences of the Carter Family (Appalshop). A March 2002 grant to the Library of Virginia supported lectures, teachers' workshops, and publications in conjunction with a major new exhibit on "Virginia Roots Music."

But while it is true that Virginia has a rich stock of musical traditions with deep roots and long histories in the state, this musical culture is also continually being refreshed and re-created by new influences from within, and by new arrivals from elsewhere. For example, in a recent performance celebrating the release of the Home Craft Days CD, a group of high-school-age players led by the great-grandson of the legendary Uncle Charlie Osborne clearly showed that, today, Appalachian music is being preserved and enriched by a new generation, whose influences are not confined to the tradition they inherited.

Continued on page 4

Musical Traditions

Continued from page 3

One of our most interesting recent grants (to the Blue Ridge Institute) supported planning for an exhibit on Virginia “Rockabilly” music. Other awards within the past few months have supported pre-production costs for a film on the musical traditions of the Ethiopian diaspora (Bay Area Video Coalition), and production of a CD with liner notes and a listener’s guide documenting the performance of “Homrong,” twelve sacred musical compositions that are central to the Kmer (Cambodian) classical music tradition. Both of these projects focus on the music of Northern Virginia’s immigrant communities.

Within the past several years, interest in traditional music has increased dramatically, and VFH is responding through collaborative efforts involving the Grant, Folklife, and African American Heritage programs. We have just produced a video of the Buckingham Lining Bar Gang, a group of African American men from Southside Virginia who are reviving songs and stories connected

with the work of lining railroad track by hand. We are preserving and making accessible through the Web important field recordings of shout songs and children’s songs of the Piedmont region, as well as off-stage performances and

interviews collected at the Old Fiddler’s Convention in Galax.

We have recently funded the preservation and cataloging of thousands of acoustic performances in the archives of Charlottesville’s Prism Coffeehouse. This spring, with support from the Parson’s Foundation in Norfolk, we will be produc-

ing a CD of performances by the Paschall Brothers, with interpretive liner notes, a study guide and teachers’ institute focusing on the black *a capella* gospel traditions of the Tidewater Region. And the list goes on...

We invite all Virginians to explore the state’s musical

heritage with us. From Cambodian sacred music in Arlington to an old-time performance at the Carter Fold in Scott County, tapping the wealth of musical traditions in Virginia is essential to the mission of the VFH. It’s also an exciting journey, every step of the way.

Master Cambodian musician Chum Ngek plays the sampho (barrel drum) at a Kmer New Year’s celebration in Arlington. (Photo by Pete So)



Members of the Ethiopian band Wallias, at Massawa on the Red Sea, ca. 1973. Most of these musicians now live in Virginia. (Photo courtesy of Kyle Stone)

The Banjo in the New World

This past fall, the Virginia Folklife Program presented a lecture and performance series that explored the emergence of a popular American music style through the history and development of this country’s oldest indigenous musical instrument—one deeply rooted in Virginia—the five-string banjo. Offered in collaboration with Charlottesville’s Prism Coffeehouse and the University of Virginia’s School of Continuing Education and Professional Studies, “From Africa to America: The Banjo in the New World” began with the banjo’s African origins in the 1600s, and followed its path through the New World, from its interactions with Celtic and European traditions to its emergence in Appalachia. The series then turned to the banjo’s role in blues, bluegrass, and the folk music revival.

The series was hosted by acclaimed banjoist and music historian Joe Ayers, whose five-volume audio recording series “Early Banjo Classics” is the most comprehensive study of early American banjo music ever produced. Mr. Ayers was joined each week by a wide range of musical guests, each touching upon a critical aspect of the instrument’s development, including:

- Mali-born Griot, **Cheick Hamala Diabate**, “African Origins and the Passage”
- Bob Carlin**, “The Celtic Connection”
- Cathy Fink**, “Women in the Parlor”
- Bruce Molsky**, “The Banjo in Appalachia”
- Kinney Rorrer** and **Kirk Sutphin**, “Broadcasting and the Banjo”
- Mike Seeger**, “From Blues to Bluegrass”
- Alan Jabbour** and **Pete Vigour**, “The Old Time Revival”



Musicians Bruce Penner, Cheick Hamala Diabate, and Joe Ayers.

Other performances in the series included the Lonesome River Band’s Sammy Shelor, Fred Boyce, and Eddie Adcock. This performance series was supported by a grant from the Virginia Commission for the Arts.

Jon Lohman, Director, Virginia Folklife Program

The Intimacy of Radio

With Good Reason host and producer Sarah McConnell tells associate producer Sean Tubbs why she loves her job.

ST: You started working in radio in 1979 at WINA in Charlottesville, and you became the host of *With Good Reason* in 1999. What do you like most about working in radio?

SM: Radio is intimate. I once thought radio was a dying medium. But with our lives increasingly fragmented, it's a relief to have interesting programs to listen to, especially on long commutes in the car. It's a great way to disseminate information to the public, to connect people. Radio reaches a set of people, even readers, that couldn't be reached in any other way.

ST: Last year, *With Good Reason* celebrated its tenth anniversary, and the Program has now featured more than 800 faculty members from Virginia colleges and universities on the show. What show are you most proud of?

SM: The show that stands out above all the others was with Dr. Snuffy Meyers of UVa. He spent years leading government research into prostate cancer and then learned he had a virulent form of the disease himself. In a candid, caring, and immensely informative way, he spoke about his own treatment and made recommendations for others in the same boat. I also loved when I decided I wanted to go whale watching. I found a graduate student at ODU who was totally engrossed in coastal wildlife. I loved that I got to interview him with the slap of water and squawk of gulls overhead.

Sarah McConnell and Sean Tubbs



ST: What's your favorite kind of show to produce?

SM: My hope always is to offer something so interesting to people that they ask others around them to shush! while they wait in their cars, engines running, to hear the interviewee to the very end.

ST: You've lived all across Virginia, and are now producing the only statewide public radio program in the state. Would you comment on the significance of this?

SM: We're lucky to be able to focus on both Virginia subjects and universal themes. We've done shows on the Nat Turner slave uprising and on the long leaf pine of Tidewater, but the ideas in the shows appeal to Virginians and non-Virginians. Everything is grist for us, from the search for mountain lions in Virginia to the nature of evil and the common roots of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam.

ST: What can listeners expect in the next few months?

SM: We plan to explore Virginia's ties to Ireland in a show that will air just ahead of the big Irish Conference the VFH is hosting. We'll also delve into the nature of evil on one program. We even plan to devote a show to NASCAR racing in Virginia!

ST: Will you go see a race for research?

SM: Sure! It would be even more exciting to take a ride in one of the cars. Do they allow that?

"Having an intelligent and articulate host who politely and calmly evokes solid information from the guests and makes them justify the facts behind their views... is a tremendous service to the listeners."

With Good Reason listener



Map of the WGR broadcast area by station range. For complete listings, visit www.virginia.edu/vfh/wgr

To read the complete interview, and to listen online to the show, please visit the *With Good Reason* website at www.virginia.edu/vfh/wgr.

Founded in 1992, *With Good Reason* is produced for the Virginia Higher Education Broadcasting Consortium by the Virginia Foundation for the Humanities and is broadcast in partnership with public radio stations in Virginia, Tennessee, and Washington, D.C. Each week, scholars from Virginia's public universities and colleges explore the worlds of literature, science, the arts, politics, history, and business. By the end of 2002, more than 800 faculty in Virginia's state-supported universities and colleges and its community college system had been featured on the program.



Let the celebration begin!

The Virginia Festival of the Book will showcase readers, writers, and public discussions on **March 19-23**. Join the thousands of Virginians and book lovers from the mid-Atlantic region as they celebrate the book during more than 200 programs, all open to the public and—with few exceptions—free of charge.

The VFH is proud to present the Virginia Festival of the Book to promote reading and literacy for all Virginians. Below is a selection of programs that demonstrate the Festival's wide intercultural and interdisciplinary reach, reminding us as Virginians who we are, where we came from, and where we are going. Exact times and locations for these programs are listed at www.vabook.org.

Wednesday, March 19

Voices of the Puppet-Masters of Indonesia: Puppets, Politics and Magic

Slide presentation on the *Wayang Golek* theater of Indonesia—its social, political, and spiritual significance—based on *Voices of the Puppet Master* by Mimi Herbert. Puppets on display. (UVa South Asian Studies)

Friday, March 21

Readings from Contemporary Literature of India and Pakistan

A reading of recent, as yet unpublished translations from Hindi and Urdu of some of the more exciting current literature from India and Pakistan. (UVa South Asian Studies)

It's All Politics: Presidential Consultants

Author Raymond D. Strother (*Falling Up: How a Redneck Helped Invent Political Consulting*) and novelist Peter Roussel (*Ruffled Flourishes*) discuss the behind-the-scenes stories of power politics. (*Daily Progress*)

Violence and the Imagination

Authors Stephen Cushman (*Bloody Promenade*), Susan Fraiman (*Unbecoming Women; Coal Men and the Second Sex*), and Scott Saul (*Freedom Is, Freedom Ain't*) will discuss literature's response to violence in America and elsewhere. (UVa English Department)

Writing Appalachia: Fiction Reading

A reading and discussion of place in the fiction of Silas House (*Clay's Quilt*) and Crystal Wilkinson (*Blackberries, Blackberries*).

Twentieth Century Caricatures:

A Fiction Reading With 2002 Virginia Literary Award winner Tom De Haven's novel about cartoonists (*Dugan Under Ground*) and Marc Estrin's novel about the afterlife of Kafka's cockroach (*Insect Dreams*).

What We Make of the Past:

Memoirs Virginia Holman (*Rescuing Patty Hearst*) discusses growing up with her mother's schizophrenic episodes and Michael Mewshaw (*Do I Owe You Something?*) presents his memoir of a literary life.

Time, Space and Literature: The Rhythms of Story and the Homes of Inspiration

Authors Christopher Tilghman (*The Way People Run*), Michael Levenson (*Modernism and the Fate of Individuality*), Lisa Russ Spaar (*Glass Town*), and Alison Booth (*Greatness Engendered*) discuss the intersections of time, space, and literature. (UVa English Department)



Rita Dove, David Kirby, Teresa Dowell-Vest, and Fred Viebahn enjoy the gala authors' reception at VABook! 2002.

Plan now to attend the annual Authors' Reception on March 22, hosted this year by Virginia poet **Nikki Giovanni** and Virginia novelist **William Hoffman**. The 6 PM gala features wine and hors d'oeuvres at Carr's Hill, the home of the President of the University of Virginia. All VABook! participants and authors are invited. Tickets available at 434-924-3296.



Lee Smith will read from *The Last Girls* at the UVA Culbreth Theatre on March 22.

Poet Jimmy Santiago Baca reads to a packed auditorium during VABook! 2002.

Saturday, March 22

A Day of Remembering the Civil War I

The President and the General: Abraham Lincoln, Stonewall Jackson, and the 1862 Valley Campaign, with author Gary Gallagher (*Lee and His Army in Confederate History*).

A Day of Remembering the Civil War II

The Civil War: The Soldier's View—The General's View with authors Gary Gallagher (*Lee and His Army in Confederate History*), Bevin Alexander (*How Wars are Won*), and journalist Michael S. Zbailey.

Violence and the Imagination II

Authors Gregory Orr (*The Caged Owl; The Blessing*), Mark Edmundson (*Teacher*) and Debra Nystrom (*A Quarter Turn*) read from their poetry and prose responding to the experience of violence. (UVa English Department)

Cannibalism and the Spaces of History: Book Arts and Literature Discussion

Join visual artist Enrique Chagoya (*Códex Espangliensis*), and University of Virginia Professor Ricardo Padrón (*The Spacious Word: Cartography, Literature, and Empire in Early Modern Spain*) for a discussion of their unique approaches to language, history, globalism, and cultural transformation. Moderated by Pablo Davis.

Virginia ABC Presentation

A 40-minute slide presentation by David Wofford (*Horse and Buggy Press*) and Stephen Gibson (*City of Midnight Skies*) about publishing hand-printed, hand-bound books in a culture of mass-production.

Love in Black and White, Voices and Faces

A slide-show presentation and discussion by photographer Mary Motley Kalergis (*Love in Black and White*) on the subject of interracial relationships.

"Patriotism" and the Right of Free Speech During Wartime

What does the past predict for the right of speech during the war on terror? A discussion with Henry Abraham (*Freedom and the Court*), Barbara Perry (*The Priestly Tribe*), Robert O'Neil (*The First Amendment and Civil Liability*), and Katherine McNamara, publisher of the online quarterly *Archipelago*. (Thomas Jefferson Center for the Protection of Free Expression)

Sunday, March 23

Go West: Writers' Fiction and Poetry Inspired by Lewis & Clark

With writers Brian Hall (*I Should Be Extremely Happy in Your Company*), Mariflo Stephens (*Sacajawea and York: Hidden Heroes of Lewis and Clark*), and Erica Funkhouser (*Pursuit*).



Programs about the value and pricing of rare books always draw a capacity crowd at Blue Whale Rare Books.

www.vabook.org

Irish Conference Combines the Humanities and the Arts

BY ANDREW WYNDHAM

Taking Ireland as a “window on the world,” the **May 7-10** *Re-Imagining Ireland* conference and festival has been planned as an in-depth dialogue on global themes and issues. The event will unfold as an exploration of the transforming effects of globalization on traditional cultures; the historic worldwide migration and interaction of national populations; and the relation of religious and political identity to issues of terrorism, war, and peace.

This groundbreaking international event will show that the Irish example, though uniquely patterned, can serve to illuminate contemporary developments with which Americans and people around the world are deeply concerned.

Journalists, politicians, writers, scholars, and citizen activists will participate in panel discussions, and proceedings will include a variety of visual and performing artists, writers, and their works: two major concerts, a series of musical narratives and life stories, an award-winning play, a new Irish feature film and series of short films, readings by major Irish poets, and an exhibition of contemporary Irish art. The resulting interaction will create intellectual as well as imaginative connections that suggest the shifting nature of how people imagine and create their national identity.

Re-Imagining Ireland will provide numerous opportunities to find and develop language that can be brought to bear on what is happening now in

a country whose people are wrestling with their self-conception in the light of cultural and social change. Essential to this effort is the Irish people’s creative engagement with their culture in new and affirming ways. They are celebrating and experimenting with expressive acts of cultural repossession, seeking to define the elusive form of an “Irishness” that remains, in project consultant Declan McGonagle’s words, “a question rather than a statement.” The people are, says McGonagle, engaged in an exploration “in which linear, one-dimensional readings of anything of value—from culture, politics, and society, to identity—can be dismantled and reconfigured.”

How to Attend

There are three ways to attend *Re-Imagining Ireland*:

- 1) **Purchase the full Conference Package**
- 2) **Register for Free Discussion Panels, or**
- 3) **Order individual tickets to performance events.**

The easiest way to register for and purchase the Conference Package, or to register to attend Free Discussion Panels, or to purchase tickets to individual performance events (beginning March 1) is online at www.re-imagining-ireland.org—click on “Registration & Travel.” Or call **(434) 924-9721** to receive registration forms or an individual ticket order form by mail, which can be submitted with a check payment to *VFH – Re-Imagining Ireland*.



The Arts at *Re-Imagining Ireland*

Music: Groups in Concert

Wednesday, May 7, 9:00 PM

The Green Fields of America

This group was the first on either side of the Atlantic to bring together Irish vocal, instrumental, and dance traditions on the concert and festival stage, introducing Irish stepdancing to general American audiences. Founder and lead musician Mick Moloney will be joined by singer-songwriter Robbie O’Connell, Jerry O’Sullivan (uilleann pipes), and dancers Donny Golden and Sinead Lawlor.

De Dannan

One of the most famous and accomplished groups on the traditional, and sometimes not-so-traditional circuit, **De Dannan** is led by the fiery, virtuoso fiddle playing of Frankie Gavin, recognized as one of the world’s fiddle and violin masters, who is responsible for much of the style and musical arrangements of the group. **De Dannan** will include virtuoso accordion player Derek Hickey, vocalist Eleanor Shanley, Brian Bourke on bodhran, Brian McGrath on banjo and keyboards, and Mick Conneely on bouzouki and fiddle.

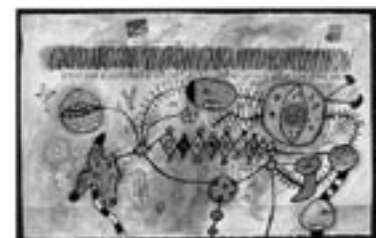
Saturday, May 10, 8:30 PM

Cherish the Ladies

Led by Joannie Madden, this six-woman Irish-American band produces music based on traditional Irish dance tunes and is accompanied by stepdancing. The group – which also features Mary Coogan, Mary Rafferty, Donna Long, Siobhan Egan, and lead vocalist Aoife Clancy – has recorded seven highly acclaimed albums and has appeared widely on radio and television in the U.S. and overseas. Cherish the Ladies has been named Entertainment Group of the Year by the *Irish Voice* newspaper.

Solas

Described in the *Irish Echo* as “one of the most exciting Irish bands anywhere in the world,” **Solas** cemented their reputation by garnering three consecutive Best Celtic Recording awards from the Association for Independent Music (AFIM)—for the albums *Solas* (1996), *Sunny Spells and Scattered Showers* (1997), and *The Words That Remain* (1998). Seamus Egan scored the soundtrack for the film *The Brothers McMullen*, and is featured on the soundtrack of *Dead Man Walking*. The other accomplished members of the group include Mick McAuley, Winifred Horan, John Doyle, and vocalist Deirdre Scanlon.



“Davie,” Traditional 9-10th century Gaelic Poem
Art: Alan Davie; Translation: Fearghas MacFhionnlaigh;
Calligraphy: Louise Donaldson (Courtesy Pròiseact nan Ealan, Isle of Lewis, Scotland)

Sponsors

Major funding provided to VFH by the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Anne Lee Ueltschi Foundation, Delta Air Lines, and The Cultural Relations Committee of Ireland/Comhar Cultúra Éireann. For a complete list of sponsors, visit www.re-imagining-ireland.org.



Re-Imagining Ireland will feature a cross-section of outstanding Irish and American guests, including writers **Frank McCourt** and **Roddy Doyle**; journalists **Jacki Lyden**, **Fintan O'Toole**, **Susan McKay**, and **David McKittrick**; musicians **Seamus Egan**, **Frankie Gavin**, and **Joannie Madden**; historians **Joe Lee**, **Tim Pat Coogan**, **Kerby Miller**, and **Roy Foster**; and activists and politicians **Margaret Mac Curtain**, **Michael D. Higgins**, and **David Ervine**.

Music: Musical Narratives

Martin Hayes (Musical Narrative: Thursday, May 8, 2:30–3:45 PM)

This Irish traditional musician, a six-time All-Ireland Fiddle Champion, has been named Traditional Musician of the Year by Ireland's National Entertainment Awards—the Irish equivalent of a Grammy. Named Best Traditional Act of 1995 by the *Hot Press*/Heineken Rock Awards, he is a former member of the famed Tulla Ceili Band.

Andy Irvine (Musical Narrative: Friday, May 9, 2:30–3:45 PM)

Irish singer-songwriter and bouzouki and mandoline player, Irvine formed the groups Sweeney's Men, Planxty and Patrick Street, but has always done and continues to do much solo work. Irvine spent 1968–69 in The Balkans where he first became interested in Bulgarian Folk Music.

Mick Moloney (Musical Narrative: Friday, May 9, 12:15–2:00 PM)

Co-founder of the The Green Fields of America touring group, he has been named Best Tenor Banjo Player in the United States by *Frets* magazine. Since 1973, he has produced and/or performed on more than 50 recordings for such labels as Rounder, Green Linnet, and Shanachie.

Len Graham and John Campbell (Musical Narrative: Saturday, May 10, 10:45–12:00 PM)

At *Re-Imagining Ireland*, Len Graham will present a special performance with John Campbell, one of Ireland's finest storytellers. A shepherd who lives in the village of Mullaghbawn, County Armagh, Campbell has represented Ireland at many international festivals in Europe, Australia, and North America.

Len Graham and Pádraigín Ní Uallacháin (Musical Narrative: Saturday, May 10, 2:30–3:45 PM)

Graham and Ní Uallacháin are two of the foremost exponents and authorities on the Ulster song tradition in the Irish and English Languages. Ní Uallacháin has recorded four albums, and Len Graham is featured on some 17 albums and has provided songs for such high-profile artists and groups as Altan, The Battlefield Band, The Chieftains, De Dannan, and Dolores Keane.

Bruce Molsky (Musical Narrative: Saturday, May 10, 4:15–5:30 PM)

Outstanding old-time fiddler, high-spirited guitarist, banjoist and singer, Molsky's music melds the archaic mountain sounds of Appalachia, the power of blues, and the rhythmic intricacies of traditional African music. *Sing Out!* says his fiddling "combines precision and abandon so perfectly that it raises the hairs on the back of your neck." He will perform with accomplished dancer Amy Fenton-Shine.

Tommy Sands (Musical Narrative: Saturday, May 10, 12:15–2:00 PM)

Northern Ireland singer, songwriter, and storyteller, Tommy Sands was songwriter for the Irish folk group The Sands Family in the sixties and seventies and is best known for such songs as "There Were Roses," "Daughters and Sons," and "All the Little Children." His first solo album, *Singing of the Times*, released in 1985, is now regarded as a classic.

Film

Each day at *Re-Imagining Ireland*, the **Cork International Film Festival** will present a 75-minute program of short films from Ireland and Northern Ireland—films connected to the conference themes. The shorts screened will range from classics of the nineties to recently completed works. Additionally, **Bord Scannán, The Irish Film Board**, will present a new Irish feature film on the evening of May 8. Complete details on films to be screened at the program will be available in March on the *Re-Imagining Ireland* web site: www.re-imagining-ireland.org.

Drama

The VFH and Richard Wakely will present the *Corn Exchange* production of **Foley** by Michael West on Friday, May 9 (8:15–10:15 p.m.) and Saturday, May 10 (8:00–10:00 p.m.), both at UVA's Culbreth Theater. Directed by American ex-patriot Annie Ryan, with music by Vincent Doherty, this one-man show features Abbey actor Andrew Bennett, narrator of the film *Angela's Ashes*, who was nominated Best Actor for his role as "Foley" at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival (2001). This beautifully crafted meditation on family history and the place of the Anglo-Irish in contemporary Ireland is described by critic Karen Fricker as "one of the best and most original pieces of new Irish dramatic writing to emerge in several years." A panel discussion—sponsored by the Forum for Contemporary Thought at UVA—with playwright Michael West and actor Andrew Bennett—will follow performances of **Foley**.

Exhibits

Re-Imagining Irish Art

Organized in cooperation with the Irish Museum of Modern Art (IMMA), this show will present artistically and politically challenging works drawn primarily from the Museum's collection in Dublin. The IMMA exhibition will be presented at the University of Virginia Art Museum from April 12 through June 8, 2003. The show will feature such internationally known artists as Dorothy Cross, Shane Cullen, Willie Doherty, Alice Maher, Mark Francis, Paul Seawright, and Kathy Prendergast. The Forum for Contemporary Thought will sponsor a panel focused on the exhibition, at the University Art Museum, May 9, 2:30–3:45 p.m.

Leabhar Mòr Na Gaeilge – The Great Book of Gaelic North American Preview

Four years in the making, *The Great Book of Gaelic*—or *Leabhar Mòr na Gaeilge*—is an extraordinary collaborative project that has been dubbed a twenty-first century *Book of Kells*. Combining the work of 100 contemporary Scottish and Irish artists, poets, calligraphers and typographers, the project brings together 15 centuries of Scottish and Irish culture, celebrating mythologies, traditions and a language that bind them together. Twenty of 100 (25" x 42") pages/panels will be presented at the University of Virginia Rotunda, April 18 – May 16.

For information on additional displays, please visit www.re-imagining-ireland.org.

New VFH Fellows

New VFH Fellows **Woody Holton**, assistant professor of history at the University of Richmond, and folklorist **Paddy Bowman** are respected for their



VFH Fellows Paddy Bowman (above) and Woody Holton (right).



contributions to research and education in Virginia and beyond. Professor Holton's fellowship will permit him to complete his book *Who Will Call This Justice?*, which puts forth the proposition that leading Americans, such as George Washington and James Madison, might not

have written the Constitution if they had not faced uprisings by Indians, slaves, and small farmers. Holton's first book, *Forced Founders: Indians, Debtors, Slaves and the Making of the*

American Revolution in Virginia, argued that ordinary Americans influenced elites through their actions; he goes further in his current project to focus on how their ideas influenced the elite classes. Bowman's project, "Virginia Voices: Creating a Folklife Education Guide," will serve K-12 educators in Virginia with partnerships among educational and folklife organizations to create an online folklife curriculum guide with access to archives, publications, films, recordings and other resources for teachers and students. Bowman believes that fieldwork in folklore, oral history, and cultural anthropology provides an engaging and productive approach to education for K-12 students.

News Highlights

This January, a press conference highlighted Virginia's efforts to promote African-American tourism marketing at the Black History Museum and Cultural Center of Virginia. VFH President **Rob Vaughan** participated in the conference on behalf of the African-American Heritage Program.



Pictured (from the left) are **Michael J. Schewel**, Virginia Secretary of Commerce and Trade, **Bessida Cauthorne White**, Board of Directors, The Black History Museum and Cultural Center of Virginia, **Calvin D. Jamison**, Chairman of the Board, Virginia Tourism Corporation, and **Mark R. Warner**, Governor of Virginia.

The Irish Ambassador **Noel Fahey** and other friends of the Irish Embassy enjoyed a preview of *Re-Imagining Ireland* programs and musical performances during a reception on Wednesday, January 29, in Washington, D.C. The international conference is set for May 7-10 in Charlottesville. Pictured are (left to right, back row) Charlottesville City Manager **Gary B. O'Connell**, **Anne O'Connell**, Charlottesville Regional Chamber of Commerce President and Chief Executive **Tim Hulbert**, musician **Rick Epping**, Irish Parliament member **Simon Coveney, TD**, VFH Project Director of *Re-Imagining Ireland* **Andrew H. Wyndham**, (front row) **Owen Feeney**, Third Secretary for the Irish Embassy, **Ambassador and Mrs. Noel Fahey**, **Susan Goode**, former VFH board member, and **David Goode**, Chairman, President and CEO, Norfolk Southern Railroad.



VFH Honors Contributors as Humanities Associates

To recognize donors of unrestricted gifts of \$1,000 or more, the VFH established the Humanities Associates. While restricted gifts assist the VFH with specific programs, gifts to the unrestricted Annual Fund enable the VFH to apply funds to areas of greatest need. Please consider becoming a member of the Humanities Associates by making an unrestricted gift of \$1000 or more by June 30. Benefits for members of the Humanities Associates include:

- Involvement with VFH programs
- Special Recognition in the Annual Donors Report
- Recognition and listing of the members of the Humanities Associates in the VFH Newsletter
- Recognition of the members at VFH anniversary events and award dinners
- Social opportunities with affinity groups

Thank you to our current Humanities Associates!

Jerome S. Handler

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Dick and Marty Wilson

Big Thank You to Advocates!

It is always important for elected officials to know the financial, cultural, and educational impact of the VFH in their districts. In a difficult budget year such as this, it is critical. In recent weeks, the letters and contacts to Delegates and Senators on behalf of the VFH have been flowing in. VFH Board and former Board members, grantees, project directors, and other constituents have written, called, e-mailed, and visited their representatives to talk about the importance of VFH programs around the Commonwealth. VFH friends and supporters have continued to make the case that an investment in VFH programs is an investment in Virginia's future.

For this work, we say a big thank you! Only with your combined efforts will programs be preserved and Virginians be served.

Dr. Wyndham Blanton, former chair of the VFH board, was honored recently with a proclamation and ceremony by Governor Mark R. Warner to recognize Wyndham's contributions to the civic, educational, and cultural life of Virginia. The ceremony was followed by a reception at The Commonwealth Club in Richmond. Pictured are (left to right) current VFH Board Member Kirk Schroder, David Bearinger (VFH), Wyndham, VFH Board Chair Dick Wilson, Sheryl Hayes (VFH), VFH Board Vice Chair Liz Young, and Susan Coleman (VFH).



Planned Giving How it can benefit you today

The Virginia Foundation for the Humanities depends on the generosity of people like you to fund all the programs we know you appreciate. If you know you would like for some of your estate to be transferred to VFH, the traditional way is to arrange for this in your will. While this allows for the expedient and correct transfer of such funds, it does not provide you or VFH with immediate benefits. This can be changed through planned giving.

When arranged properly, you can reduce current or future tax liability due to the funds dedicated to VFH. This can be set up so that you or VFH receive future income from the funds dedicated to VFH. Arrangements include but are not limited to charitable gift annuities, charitable remainder trusts, charitable lead trusts, and, as part of a larger charitable venture, family foundations.

We urge you to contact your estate, tax, and/or financial advisor to find out which arrangement is best suited to your situation. While we do not give

legal, tax, or financial advice, our experts will be delighted to assist you and your professional advisors. Our services are absolutely free.



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"The Last Time" (above), a film by
Conor Horgan, will be showcased
at *Re-Imagining Ireland*. (Courtesy
Cork International Film Festival)

A panel at *VABook! 2002* (right)
discusses integrity in public life.



On the Cover

The *Virginia Festival of the Book*
(March 19-23) and *Re-Imagining
Ireland* conference (May 7-10)
will bring worldwide audiences
to Charlottesville.