

# Blogs from the land of the bogs





# Being Irish: an exploration of identity & cultural issues in Irish and Irish American people

- May 2015 – travel course on digital storytelling and self identity
- Dr. Kathy Ryan and I - interdisciplinary
- One week on campus, 13 days in Ireland, one week back on campus
- Use iPads to document our journey
- IRB proposals for approval to video record behaviors and/or interviews of Irish people

# Value of student choice

- Student self –identity projects to familiarize themselves
- Blogs during trip
- iMovies on topic of choice
  - Religion and family values
  - Schools
  - Criminal Justice System
  - Equality Vote
  - Sports

# Self identity iMovie community building



Sunday, May 24th

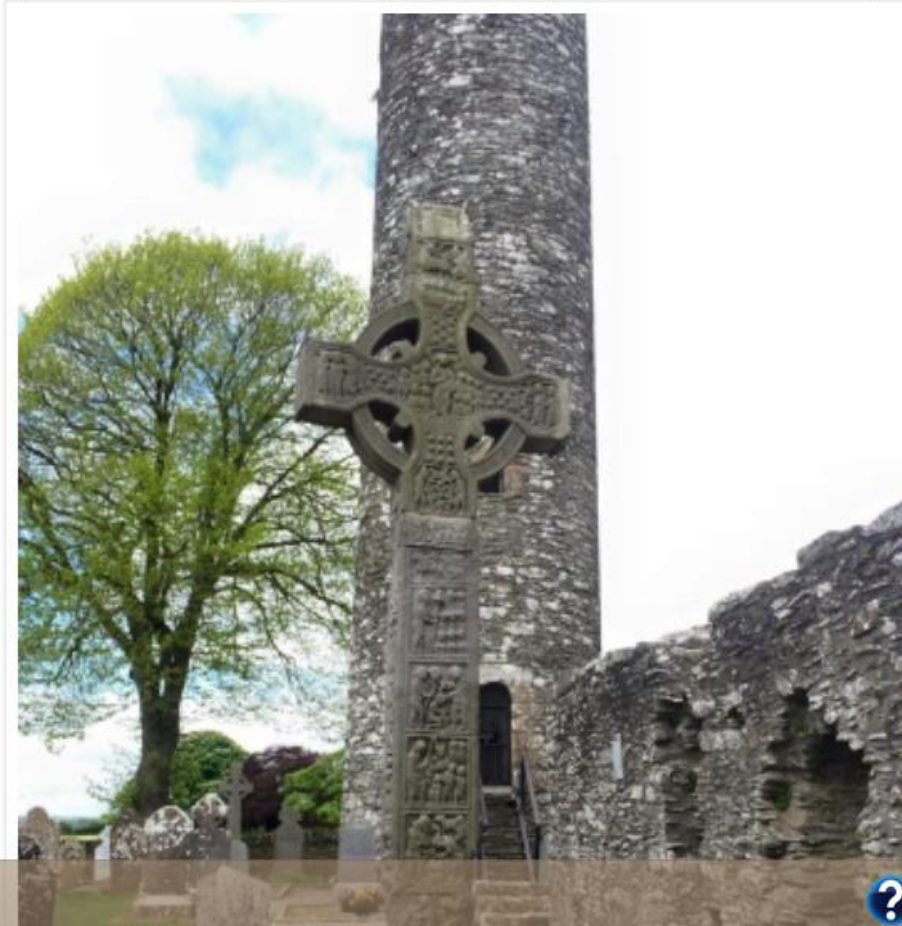
Up at 5:45 for 6:20 brisk walk to Savoy Cinema (by the spiral) for pick up for our Cliffs of Moher Tour. After a 2.5 hour bus ride through the beautiful countryside to Western Ireland, we arrive in Galway and begin a relaxed one hour guided walk through the cobblestone streets of this charming medieval city. We learned about the Viking, Norman, English invasions of this city and the 14 tribes of Galway who ruled the city. The flags of the 14 tribes fly high in the JFK Park, one of the largest public parks in Galway. The Irish hold a special love for JFK, our Irish President who visited Galway several times. Our guide shared tales of a pet monkey saving the baby of one of the tribes leaders in their castle during a fire and a father serving justice by hanging his own son.

At 11:30 we loaded back onto the bus and off we were to the Cliffs of Moher. It was so pretty to see the landscape change as we traveled up the narrow, winding roads to the Cliffs. And quite nerve wracking watching and wondering how the large charter busses pass each other on the narrow roads.



Today we took a few more trips to different crosses, churches and monuments. Stopping by the different churches and grave sights gave me a lot of information for my project. Many of the graves have poems or notes from loved ones, and each was so heartfelt and connected to religion. There were both new and old tombstones with these notes, which shows the important of religion and family has not disappeared completely.

Near these gravesights were large towers. They were used during battles, and were 15 to 16 feet off the ground with removable ladders. This helped prevent enemies from getting in the towers. In the picture below is an example of this. (Just behind the cross)

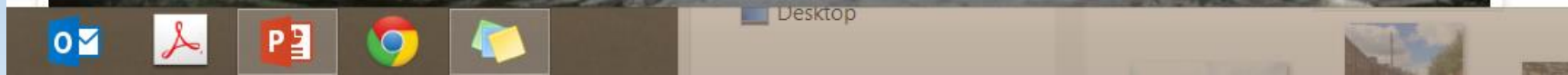


who were of Protestant religion. The schooling relies solely on a persons ability to score well on there exit exam. No other things factor into there admition to college. The tour guide missed being able to study abroad at Georgetown university by 2% and was retaking the test again in hopes to achieve this opportunity. Another thing that I found interesting was that there graduation ceremony is held in the Latin language entirely, except for their names. They also state a person GPA and final exam scores. We also had a chance to see the book of kells. This is a book of the gospels written in Latin. The Book of Kells originated in the 9th century by monks in Iowna. This county was attacked by the Vikings and the book was moved to Dublin. Then the books was sent to Trinity through an agency of Henry Jones. The amazing thing about the book was the microscopic details that were put into the drawings, which are rich in a variety of colors.





Today we saw lots of fields and hills full of sheep and dead people. I thought the king's court/ field was rather unimpressive because there wasn't any visible ruins aside from the burial chamber. The brave heart castle was cool but I'm disappointed we did not go inside. The monastery was really neat and I liked how we were allowed inside. Rath Karn had interesting history and the store/bar/restaurant combo was cool. Lunch was good. The crosses and tower at Kells were larger than I thought. Again I am amazed we were allowed to touch them.



May 31st

Not ONE, not TWO, not even THREE, but FOUR TIMES the fire alarm went off at the hostel starting at 1:30 in the morning on our final night stay in Dublin... What a way to start the journey home... Not. It came to a point where walking up and down the upwards of 80 steps to the fourth floor was almost too much and I considered just staying in my bed if the alarm went off again. Not sure you can call the two hours after the alarms finally stopped time enough to get any rest as I was constantly awoken by the red light that refused to turn off the rest of the night. But as I type this we are making our decent into JFK... And although I will never forget my time in the country of my ancestors, it feels amazing to be back in the good 'ole US of A! #Murica



## Last Saturday in Dublin

On our last day in Dublin we had the opportunity to spend the day as we liked. Lexie, Josh, and I spent the day on Grafton street, walked through St. Stephen's Green, and also spent some time on the North side of the River Liffey. In the afternoon, around 3:30, Amanda met up with us at the Ha'penny Inn Pub, and we made our way to Wildcat tattoo on the north side of the River Liffey. Once there, I got my first tattoo. I chose to have the Greek word for psyche tattooed on my left hip, as it means life, breath, the spirit, the soul, and ultimately the "self." Being in Ireland taught me a great deal about who I am and at I am capable of, as well as what I have the potential of doing and being. For me, the psyche tattoo is a perfect reminder of this, and a reminder to love myself before anyone or anything else.



# Being Irish: Family Values and Religion



# Lessons learned

- How to share between devices
  - iPad to iPad
  - iPhone to iPad
- Uploading of iMovies to google docs
  - Took longer than anticipated
- Need for me (Amy) to be more tech 'savvy'
- Less afraid of the 'Cloud'
- Faculty have their own sign in to download apps to iPads

# Ireland 2015

