This fall the Wake Forest University Press is proud to present the revised, expanded edition of *The Wake Forest Book of Irish Women’s Poetry* and is celebrating its release by bringing the poetry directly to its readers. Starting in October, poetry lovers from all over the country will have the opportunity to attend readings by some of the amazing poets featured in the book during the Wake Forest Women’s Anthology Tour 2011: Voices From Ireland. Eiléan Ní Chuilleáin, Leontia Flynn, Rita Ann Higgins and Caitríona O’Reilly will be traveling across the United States for two weeks with stops in Winston-Salem, Chicago, Pittsburgh, New York, and Berkeley. To commemorate the occasion we have designed four signed broadsides, one for each of the poets on tour, which will be available for $10 on our [website](#) as of Oct. 24. We caught up with Eiléan Ní Chuilleáin and Rita Ann Higgins to find out their thoughts on the upcoming tour.

### What city are you looking forward to visiting the most?

ENC: I’m really looking forward to returning to Chicago, where I’ve been once before - the city, the Art Institute, were so exciting.

RAH: San Francisco

### What are your favorite and least favorite parts of touring?

ENC: I hate flying but love traveling. If I can take a train I’m really happy.

RAH: My favorite is part is all you learn, also eating and drinking and not having to worry about driving home. My least favorite is I hate to have to be at the airport at the crack of dawn.

### Is there anything particular you were looking forward to doing or seeing in New York or San Francisco during your downtime there?

ENC: I have friends in Berkeley and a step-brother in northern California, so I am looking forward to seeing them.

RAH: Going to visit Alcatraz (I’ll be the envy of my family and I will boast about it).

### Do you have any American foods that you are looking forward to eating while on tour?

ENC: I love American seafood so will enjoy being anywhere it’s available.

RAH: At least one slice of f**K off pizza (very bad for me as I try to stay clear of wheat but I’ve got to do it—yum)

### What do you find is the biggest difference between an Irish and an American audience’s response to poetry during a reading?

ENC: I have found American audiences very responsive and also discovered they had totally misunderstood my poems—most memorably, the lady who liked my poem about hermits but thought I meant hermit crabs. The trouble is, people are so polite.

RAH: The Irish audience will get my colloquialisms quicker but the American audience will clap louder and longer.
Brendan Kennelly; He’s Essential!

Brendan Kennelly has long been hailed as the “people’s poet” of Ireland, due in part to his colloquial language and down-to-earth themes. His newest book, The Essential Brendan Kennelly, presents a deep sampling of his life’s work, spanning from his earliest poems to his most recent, allowing the reader to get to know him on an intimate level through one book. The collection comes with a CD that features Kennelly reading some of his poems aloud. Another wonderful way to experience Kennelly's work is this video [http://vimeo.com/29237769](http://vimeo.com/29237769) made by Neil Astley of Bloodaxe Books. You get a beautiful glimpse into the English countryside as you ride along with Astley as he listens to the CD while driving to work. There’s a nice little twist at the end, too. Watch for the Wake Forest University Press edition of The Essential Brendan Kennelly, which will be released at the end of October.

Interns’ Corner

E-books are everywhere. They simply will not leave us alone. The big question currently being asked among poetry presses across the country, including here at Wake Forest, is “Are we ready to go digital?” To those presses that responded “yes” and proceeded accordingly, a new question has arisen: “Is the digital world ready for us?” Several poetry publishers have forged ahead in the e-book department and have run up against the same obstacle. E-book formatting is not compatible with poetry. Line breaks and stanza spacing are disregarded, altering the significance of the poet’s work. One of the ‘benefits’ of e-readers that is an extreme detriment to poetry is the power it gives the reader to alter the text. People can change the font, size, color, and background of the text they are reading. While that may be fun for the reader, it is a nightmare for poets and publishers alike. How can we be assured a line break will maintain its location, when at any moment a reader can alter any- and everything we worked so hard on positioning? Just when we were ready to meet the challenge, a new one has arisen. It is a testament to publishers’ love of poetry that they have not conceded to the pressures of the future, and continue to fight for a spot in the upcoming digital age. Wake Forest press will keep trying to find a way to keep up with technological changes but at the same time stay true to our love, poetry, which isn’t just words, but words and lines arranged in a meaningful way.

Upcoming News

The Wake Forest Book of Irish Women’s Poetry
October 24

Wake Forest Women’s Anthology Tour 2011: Voices From Ireland
October 24-November 2

The Essential Brendan Kennelly
October 31

Wake Forest Press Fall Special:

Buy The Wake Forest Book of Irish Women’s Poetry and receive 10% off—only with this newsletter offer!

To receive this special offer please call 336-758-5448.