PRESS RELEASE: CAMBRIDGE HISTORY OF IRELAND BOOK LAUNCH

EVENT DATE: September 20, 2018

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Former Irish Minister Liz O’Donnell to Launch *Cambridge History of Ireland* at Boston College

Former Irish Minister Liz O’Donnell will give a keynote address at a launch event for the *Cambridge History of Ireland* to be held at Boston College on September 20.

O’Donnell, Minister of State at the Department of Foreign Affairs from 1997-2002, was a member of the Irish government’s negotiating team in the multi-party talks that culminated in the Good Friday Agreement in 1998. Since leaving public office in 2007, she has worked in the media, as a public affairs consultant, as chairperson of the Road Safety Authority in Ireland, and since 2017 as Director of Policy Communications and Government Affairs at MSD (Human Health) Ireland.

In her remarks, O’Donnell will reflect on the Northern Ireland peace process, the advancement of women in Ireland, and social progress.

“We are thrilled that Liz O’Donnell will be returning to Boston College to keynote this special event, which celebrates the work of Irish historians and the forward momentum of Irish society,” remarked Robert Mauro, director of Boston College’s Global Leadership Institute, a sponsor of the event. O’Donnell participated in an executive leadership program at Boston College in 2011.

Written by a team of more than 100 leading historians from 38 institutions around the world, the *Cambridge History of Ireland* is the most comprehensive and authoritative history of Ireland yet attempted. Contributors to the four-volume set include Boston College historians Kevin Kenny and Robert Savage and several Burns Visiting Scholars in Irish Studies, including Thomas Bartlett, professor emeritus at the University of Aberdeen, who served as general editor for the project.

Bartlett and the other volume editors, historians Jane Ohlmeyer, James Kelly, and Brendan Smith, will be present at the event and participate in a panel discussion with O’Donnell following her remarks.

The launch event will be held on Thursday evening, September 20, in the John J. Burns Library, which is renowned for its Irish collections. Light hors d’oeuvres and refreshments will be served beginning at
6:00pm with the program to follow at 7:00pm. The reception and program are free and open to the public. No advance registration is required.

Shane Cahill, Consul General of Ireland in Boston, commented, “The *Cambridge History of Ireland* has earned its place as a landmark survey of 1500 years of Irish history. We are proud to support the launch here in Boston of this important contribution to the study of our story, which is an original and new take on Irish history from many perspectives. We are particularly proud to partner on the launch with the John J. Burns Library at Boston College, which is itself so important to the history of the Irish in America.”

The Boston College launch is part of a US tour that will include events at New York University's Glucksman Ireland House and the Embassy of Ireland in Washington, DC, the latter keynoted by former Vice President Joe Biden. The initial launch was held at Trinity College Dublin on April 30. At that event, Irish President Michael D. Higgins spoke against a proposal to exclude history as a required subject from junior-level certifying exams.

The Boston College launch is sponsored by the Boston College Libraries, the Global Leadership Institute, Boston College, and Cambridge University Press, in collaboration with the Boston College Center for Irish Programs and Consul General of Ireland in Boston. Copies of the *Cambridge History of Ireland* will be available for purchase. Additional details, including directions and parking information, are available on the Burns Library website ([bc.edu/burns](http://bc.edu/burns)).

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