We thank all of our students, staff, faculty, alumni, and community members who have participated the Center’s streamed lectures, discussions, and performances, as well as podcasts. This semester, we are thrilled to welcome the very dynamic playwright, Hannah Khalil, as our 2021 Charles A. Heimbold Jr. Chair of Irish Studies. Khalil is an award-winning Palestinian Irish playwright currently based in London, and Villanova will be performing her play *The Scar Test* and workshopping another piece with MA students.

We are pleased to announce a new study-abroad scholarship for nursing and medical professions students, the Audrey M. Heenan ’08 CLAS ’09 FCN Endowed Fund for Experiential Education in Ireland! Thanks to the generosity of Joseph Heenan and his family, we have just established this endowed scholarship of $100,000 in recognition of the sacrifices of our medical professionals. We enjoy our relationship with the Friendly Sons of St. Patrick, which Joe and his son Ryan Heenan have led as presidents.

As part of its commitment to diversity, equity, inclusion and anti-racism, the Center for Irish Studies has established a new diversity scholarship from our Connolly Foundation Endowment to expand access to summer work and study abroad opportunities to students from traditionally underrepresented groups. This scholarship may be applied to any of our summer study and internship abroad programs, which we hope will resume soon! Center for Irish Studies DEI Scholarship.

One item not listed on our calendar below is the PBS screening of Maurice Fitzpatrick's (Heimbold Chair 2020) film *In the Name of Peace: John Hume in America* across the country beginning this March! Please tune in wherever you can.

Lastly, we will proudly host a distinguished panel on Brexit and the Northern Ireland peace process in March, led by Cera Murtagh, Ph.D. from Political Science (see below for more)!
Welcoming the Charles A. Heimbold Jr., Chair, Hannah Khalil!

Heimbold Chair, Hannah Khalil, is teaching a literature seminar for undergraduates, "Irish and Palestinian Texts of Conflict," in the English Department, and co-teaching a graduate playwriting course with Professor Michael Hollinger in the Theatre Department. Hannah's play, The Scar Test, will be streamed in March and she'll give a public reading on April 15.

Khalil's theatre work includes A Museum in Baghdad and Interference, a site-specific work for The National Theatre of Scotland. Her other plays, The Scar Test and Scenes from 68* Years were produced in London, and the latter work was nominated for the James Tait Black award. Khalil was awarded The Arab British Centre's Prize for Culture 2017 and is currently under commission to write new work for Shakespeare's Globe Theatre, Chichester Festival Theatre, The Kiln and Golden Thread San Francisco. She has written for BBC Radio 4 and BBC television. She has also written a screenplay, The Record, which won a screenplay award and became her first short film.

Photo credit: Richard Saker

Save the Date!
Villanova St. Patrick's Day Celebration: Links Across the Atlantic

Save the date for our Villanova St. Patrick's Day Celebration: Links Across the Atlantic on Wednesday, March 17, 2021! In conjunction with the Villanova University Alumni Association, the celebration will feature events in Galway (with Mary Madec) and Dublin (with Johnny Murphy, pictured here) during the day and culminate in a music festival at night. Details and registration will launch in mid-February.

Irish Cultural Society Discussion Series: Race in Ireland

Join the Irish Cultural Society in partnership with the Center for Irish Studies for a student-led conversation on race, culture, & identity in contemporary Ireland. All students are welcome to take part in the discussion in any capacity. Come celebrate the Black men and women who continue to impact Irish society with their stories, films, and advocacy efforts. Meetings will occur monthly with a film or podcast to view, listen to, & discuss.

- February 3: A Girl from Mogadishu, directed by Mary McGuckian
- March 10: Irish Podcast, Pints of Malt
- April 6: Ruth Negga and her 2016 film, Loving

Via Zoom, at 7:30 p.m. (VU students only). *ACS approved! For more information, please contact Mac O'Reilly

Irish Studies Podcasts

Season 2 of our podcast series continues on Spotify, Apple Music, and YouTube. Watch
for upcoming episodes this semester, beginning with a conversation with Heimbold Chair Hannah Khalil, and be sure to catch up on previous ones from Fall 2020!

- Episode 1: Featuring Lillis Ó Laoire - [Click here to listen]
- Episode 2: Featuring Emer O'Neill - [Click here to listen]
- Episode 3: Featuring Jim Murphy - [Click here to listen]

Jennifer Joyce's "Narratives of Northern Ireland" course featured in Villanova's Media Room

Associate Director of Irish Studies, Jennifer Joyce, Ph.D., taught the course last semester, when it was featured on Villanova's Media Room page as a "Captivating Course": "What the Troubles (and Derry Girls) are Teaching Students about 2020"

Geimhreadh 2021 / Winter 2021 Events

Week of February 1: Irish Cultural Society James Joyce Birthday Raffle

The Irish Cultural Society will host a raffle in honor of James Joyce's birthday (2/2/1882).

Check out the Live Raffle Basket on Instagram and join the ICS Leader, Mac O'Reilly for the drawing on Friday, February 5th! Also, students, please reach out to Mac, the president, for more on how to join Villanova's student group on Ireland and Irish culture!

Wednesday, February 3: Irish Cultural Society Event: Discussions of Race in Ireland with A Girl from Mogadishu

Join the Irish Cultural Society in partnership with the Center for Irish Studies for a student-led conversation on race, culture, & identity in contemporary Ireland. All students are welcome to take part in the discussion in any capacity. Come and celebrate the black men and women who continue to impact Irish society with their stories, films, and advocacy efforts. Meetings will occur monthly with a film or podcast to view, listen to, & discuss.

This session will include A Girl from Mogadishu, directed by Mary McGuckian.

Via Zoom, at 7:30 p.m. (VU students only) *ACS Approved Contact: Mac O'Reilly
Monday, February 15: Shirley Wong, PhD, "Contemporary Irish Poetry and the Creative Economy"

Shirley Wong, Ph.D. (Westfield State University) will deliver a talk drawn from her forthcoming book on globalization, place, and contemporary Irish poetry. In this lecture, she will discuss occasional poetry, which memorializes a specific event such as a funeral or military victory. Wong argues that contemporary Irish poets exploit the poem’s historic ties to patronage in order to critique the creative economy schemes (e.g. UNESCO City of Literature; Per Cent for Art Scheme; World Cities Culture Forum). Focusing on the work of Paula Meehan, she argues that occasional poetry dramatizes the capitalist crisis of contemporary Irish literature, which has been transformed by Ireland’s rapid financialization from the 1980s to the present. Wong makes the case that contemporary Irish poetry proves an exemplary site to explore how the forces and conditions of neoliberalism and globalization have molded poetic innovation.

Via Zoom, at 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, February 23: Louisa Joyner Milkman Lecture

Louisa Joyner is Associate Publisher at Faber and the Editor of Anna Burns’ award-winning novel Milkman. In a Q and A session Joyner will discuss the way Burns deals with language, conflict and the female gaze in the novel as well as talking about the reception to the book and how it developed through the editing process.

Joyner, who has a Ph.D. in post 1990s American fiction, joined Faber in 2016 as editorial director. Previously she held the role of editorial director for fiction and canons at Canongate Books. She has also held positions at HarperCollins, Virgin Books and Atlantic Books.

Via Zoom, 9:35 a.m.

Irish Dance Annual Spring Showcase

Don't miss the Villanova Irish Dance Team as they virtually perform their genre-busting Annual Showcase this spring!

Via Zoom, link to come, Time/Date TBA

Irish Dance Team Website

Wednesday, March 3: "The Complexities of Learning a 'Dying' Language: Irish Language in the United States" Panel Discussion

Former Fulbright FLTA Alene O' Malley chairs a discussion on the current state of the Irish language in Ireland and internationally.

Panel guests, including Dr. Roslyn Blyn-LaDrew and Chris Finnegan, will discuss the challenges facing non-native learners and the merits of learning a perceived dying language.
Alene O’Malley is also offering our first online Irish language course for adult and part-time learners through the Fast Forward program in the College of Professional Studies.

Dr. Roslyn Blyn-LaDrew has studied in Ireland, Wales, Scotland, and Newfoundland. She earned her B.A. from Harvard University and her Ph.D. from the University of Pennsylvania. She has published Clóicín Dearg, an Irish translation of Little Red Riding Hood in 2001 for Aims Books and regularly for the Irish Edition monthly newspaper, including an Irish language column for children.

Chris Finnegan is a musician and Orchestra Director living in Old Bridge, New Jersey. A classically trained musician, Chris began seriously studying Irish music at the Mason Gross School of the Arts, Rutgers University, which led him to meet Bill Ochs at the Irish Arts Center, with who he studied uillean pipes. Chris currently performs with several bands and as a solo artist.

**Via Zoom, at 5:00 p.m.**

**Thursday, March 4: Irish Pipeline -- Irish Athletes at Villanova**

The Irish Pipeline began in 1948 with Jimmy Reardon, when he became the first Irish runner and international athlete to accept an American track and field scholarship to Villanova University. Between 1948 and 2001 twenty-five Irish athletes came through the “Irish Pipeline,” including twelve Olympians and six world record-breakers. We will be joined by Irish pipeline athlete Marcus O’Sullivan ’84, four-time Olympic miler and Villanova’s head track coach since 2000 and Beaudry Allen, Falvey Library Preservation and Digital Archivist.

**Via Zoom, at 4:00 p.m.**

**Wednesday, March 10: Irish Cultural Society Event: Discussions of Race in Ireland with the Irish Podcast, Pints of Malt**

This discussion session will focus on issues raised in the Irish Podcast, Pints of Malt. Parts of the podcast will be played, but you may also want to listen to episodes in advance.

**Via Zoom, at 7:30 p.m.** (VU students only) *ACS Approved
Contact: Mac O'Reilly

**Friday, March 12: Virtual Symposium**

**The Northern Ireland Peace Process after Brexit**

The United Kingdom’s exit from the European Union has posed profound challenges for the Northern Ireland peace process and significant
implications for the constitutional future of the region and politics on the island of Ireland. It has triggered intense engagement from political leaders and scholars on both sides of the Atlantic, with critical alliances emerging between Ireland and the US to protect the 1998 Good Friday Agreement.

We will examine these challenges in a one-day virtual symposium, The Northern Ireland Peace Process after Brexit, which will bring together key figures from Northern Ireland and the US who have been at the forefront of these efforts, in both research and practice.

The symposium will hear keynote addresses from Professor Monica McWilliams, Emeritus Professor at the University of Ulster and Professor Brendan O'Leary, Lauder Professor of Political Science at the University of Pennsylvania, experts in the field who have each been critically engaged in the Northern Ireland peace process.

We will also host a discussion with Congressman Brendan F. Boyle of Pennsylvania’s Second District, a pivotal figure in US congressional efforts to protect the Good Friday Agreement in light of Brexit. Among other topics, the event will explore peace and security in Northern Ireland, gender equality and social justice, and the constitutional future of the region.

Via Zoom, at 8.30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Registration details will be circulated in February.

Wednesday, March 17: Villanova St. Patrick’s Day Celebration: Links Across the Atlantic

In partnership with the Villanova University Alumni Association, the Center will host an international celebration for St. Patrick’s Day on March 17, 2021. This three-part event will include live segments from breakfast in Galway to lunch in Dublin, and will culminate in streamed musical sessions in the evening with musical artists such as We Banjo 3!

Registration information will be sent in the coming weeks!

March 25 - 28 & April 1 - 4: Hannah Khalil’s The Scar Test

I haven’t hurt anyone, killed, raped, murdered - I just ran away - came here to be safe. But I’m locked up. I just - I can’t believe this is England.

They have run away from unimaginable horrors looking only for safety. But, imprisoned together at Yarl’s Wood Detention Centre, these women are stuck in a limbo that offers them exactly the opposite.

Based on verbatim interviews from current and former detainees, The Scar Test takes you inside one of England’s migrant detention centres, exposing the conditions the inmates
must endure whilst awaiting a decision on their fate. Told with compassion, Hannah Khalil's play throws a spotlight on the harrowing ordeals of the female migrants seeking refuge in Britain.

In partnership with Villanova Theatre and the Villanova Literary Festival and featuring two talkback events with Hannah Khalil. For tickets and more information about viewing the play, visit the Villanova Theatre online.

Tuesday, April 6: Irish Cultural Society Event: Discussions of Race in Ireland with Ruth Negga about her 2016 film Loving

Actor Ruth Negga will discuss her portrayal of Mildred Loving in her 2016 film, Loving.

The Ethiopian-Irish actor stars in this Jeff Nichols film and was nominated for both an Academy Award and a Golden Globe.

Via Zoom, at 7:30 p.m. (VU students only) *ACS Approved
Contact: Mac O'Reilly

Wednesday, April 7: Derry Girls Screening and Discussion

Join the Irish Cultural Society for a viewing of Lisa McGee's brilliant television series, Derry Girls.

Connelly Cinema (in-person!!), at 8:00 p.m. (VU students only)
Contact: Mac O'Reilly

Thursday, April 15: An Evening with Heimbold Chair, Hannah Khalil

The 2021 Charles A. Heimbold, Jr. Chair of Irish Studies, Hannah Khalil will read and discuss her work with faculty from the Center for Irish Studies and the Center for Arab and Islamic Studies.

Co-sponsored by the Falvey Memorial Library

ACS approved. Time TBA.

Photo credit: Richard Saker

Semester Dates at a Glance
<table>
<thead>
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