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# VILLANOVA UNIVERSITY

## COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS AND SCIENCES

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### CENTER FOR IRISH STUDIES

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## *Welcome Back, Winter-Spring 2025*

As the new year unfolds and the new semester begins, we look forward to a full semester! We welcome poet Stephen Sexton as our 2025 Charles A. Heimbald Jr. Chair of Irish Studies. Stephen teaches poetry in the Seamus Heaney Center at Queens University Belfast. He and Professor Alan Drew will be traveling with a group of creative writing students to Belfast over spring break.



We proudly announce the North American theatre premiere of ***Lost Lear***, a Dan Colley production. The company is coming over from Dublin in February for a run of four shows--get your tickets now!

Help us kick off the semester with a very social St. Brigid's Day / James Joyce's Birthday celebration at McShea's in Ardmore on January 30th!

*Joseph Lennon, Emily C. Riley Director of Irish Studies*

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## News and Updates

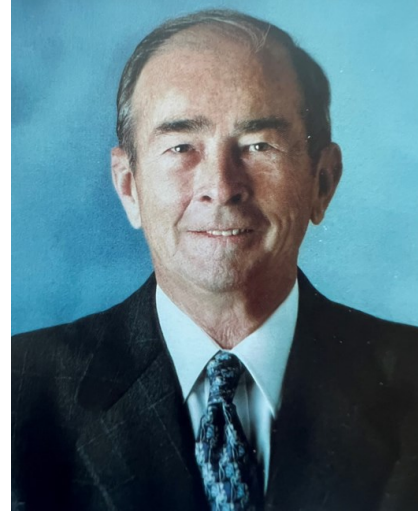
### **Ambassador Charles A. Heimbald Jr. May 27, 1933 - August 20, 2004**

We mourn the passing of one of our great benefactors, Charles A. Heimbald, Jr. Our Heimbald Chair of Irish Studies was inaugurated in 2000 by Seamus Heaney and Peter Fallon. Since then, the Heimbald Chair has brought 25 Irish writers into our classrooms, allowing hundreds of our students the chance to study with Ireland's finest literary voices.

Charles Heimbald, Jr. grew up in working-class neighborhood in Newark NJ, the eldest of six brothers. He attended Villanova University, where he studied engineering, and served three years in the Navy, with his final tour of duty on the destroyer, the USS Gainard. During a summer law school program at The Hague in the Netherlands he met a Swedish fashion

designer, Monika Barkvall. She came to the U.S. in 1960, and they married two years later and started their family. In 1963, he joined the law department at Bristol-Myers Squibb Company, eventually being named company President in 1992, Chief Executive Officer in 1994 and Chairman of the Board in 1995.

Charles was nominated to become U.S. Ambassador to Sweden in 2001. Inspired by the granddaughter's love of Irish literature, the Heimbolds endowed the Heimbold Chair of Irish Studies. They also endowed a chair for Law and Economics at the University of Pennsylvania and sponsored a new Visual Arts Center at Sarah Lawrence College. Through the Heimbold Family Foundation, the Heimbolds have supported the American Scandinavian Foundation, among other organizations.



Charles Heimbold quoted a Swedish proverb in his memoir, an approach to life that he tried to honor: "Fear less, hope more, eat less, chew more, whine less, breathe more, talk less, say more, hate less, love more and all good things are yours."

Please see here for a [full obituary](#).

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## [Irish Study Abroad Scholarship & Application Deadlines](#)



Now is the time to be preparing for study-abroad programming this summer! Please see below for dates and deadlines and, students, stay tuned about future information sessions or reach out for information.

### [Paid Internship at the Jackie Clarke Museum and Library in Ballina, Co. Mayo](#)

The graduate-level internships provide opportunities for professional development in Irish Studies while living and working abroad. Interns serve as Archives Assistants at the museum, which houses a unique and important collection of manuscripts, printed materials and artifacts. Advanced undergraduates may also apply.

**Deadline: January 31, 2025, by 5pm**



### [Summer Dublin EYE \(Early Years' Experience\) Internship](#)

The Summer Dublin EYE provides first-year Villanova students the unique opportunity to explore and challenge their career assumptions through a 3-credit international work experience in Dublin, Ireland, while also introducing them to the various forms of expressions of traditional and contemporary Irish identity and culture through a 3-credit course on literature, music, and the arts.

**Deadline: February 15, 2025**



### [Summer Studio in Irish Theater](#)

From the studio to the stage, graduate students will study the workings and history



of Ireland's world-class national theatre while developing their own theatre skills, knowledge, and practice. Student work will culminate in a showing of final work in the Lir, Ireland's National Academy of Dramatic Art and guided by Abbey Theatre professionals.

**Deadline: March 1, 2025**

**Summer Irish Studies in Galway**

The Villanova Irish Studies Summer Program will introduce students to Ireland's history, literature, society and archaeology through a 10-day Orientation in Dublin, and the Aran Islands, and one month of coursework at the National University of Ireland, Galway Summer School in Irish Studies.

**Deadline: March 1, 2025**



**Irish Studies in Galway (Fall 2025)**

Spend a semester studying in Ireland's "Cultural Heart" at the National University of Ireland (NUI), Galway. Located in the west of Ireland, with deep and rich connections to Irish culture, NUI Galway offers a diverse curriculum which can accommodate most Villanova majors including Sciences and Engineering.

**Deadline: April 15, 2025**



**Spring 2025 Events**

**Tuesday, January 21: Tea and Talk**

Join our Irish language instructors, Dr. Jonathan O'Neill and Micael Malloy for an informal Irish conversation and tea/snacks. No previous Irish required! All Villanova faculty, staff and students are welcome.

Questions? Email [jonathan.oneill@villanova.edu](mailto:jonathan.oneill@villanova.edu)

**SAC 300, at 1:30 p.m.**

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**Thursday, January 30: St. Brigid's Day & James Joyce's Birthday Party**





Celebrate with Irish Studies faculty and students, the birthday of James Joyce and Ireland's national holiday, St. Brigid's Day. Join us for Brigid Cross-making (with real Irish rushes!), readings, Irish music & craic. Food will be served.

**Jack McShea's Pub, in Ardmore, at 7:00 p.m.**

## Wednesday, February 12: Tea and Talk

Join our Irish language instructors, Dr. Jonathan O'Neill and Micael Malloy for an informal Irish conversation and tea/snacks. No previous Irish required! All Villanova faculty, staff and students are welcome.

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## February 13 - 15: The North American Premier of LOST LEAR



[Lost Lear](#) is an innovative and powerful contemporary rewrite of Shakespeare's play told from the point of view of Joy, a retired actor with dementia, who is living in an old memory of rehearsing "King Lear." The staff of the nursing home where Joy lives facilitate her care by acting out her happy memories. Joy's delicately maintained reality is upended by the arrival of her estranged son who, being cast as Cordelia, must find a way to speak his piece from within the limited role he is given. Using puppetry, projection and live video effects, the audience are landed in Joy's world as

layers of her past and present, fiction and reality, overlap and distort. 'Lost Lear' is a thought-provoking meditation on memory, artifice and the possibility of communicating across the chasms between us. (View [trailer](#))

All shows are at the Topper Theater in the Mullen Center for the Performing Arts.

### SHOWTIMES

**Thursday 2/13:** 1pm Matinee & 7pm Show

**Friday 2/14:** 7pm Show

**Saturday 2/15:** 7pm Show

Tickets on sale now at the [Mullen Center Box Office](#)

Discounted & complimentary tickets available for [students, staff & faculty](#). Email [d.redden@villanova.edu](mailto:d.redden@villanova.edu) for more information.

Co-sponsored by Visiting Angels Senior Care, Villanova's Augustine and Culture Seminar, Department of Theater & Studio Art, English Department and Medical Arts & Humanities Program. The Fitzpatrick College of Nursing is a partner. Production made possible with generous support from Culture Ireland.

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## Sunday, February 23: Film Screening - Frederick Douglass and the White Negro at the Commodore Barry Arts Center and Cultural Center

Join Center for Irish Studies faculty at the [Commodore Barry Arts and Cultural Center](#) for a film screening of [Frederick Douglass and the White Negro](#), a documentary telling the story of ex-slave, abolitionist, writer and politician Frederick Douglass and his escape to Ireland from America in the 1840s. A panel discussion featuring Center Director, Joseph Lennon, will take place after the screening.



**Commodore Barry Arts and Cultural Center, at 4:00 p.m.**  
**6815 Emlen Street, Philadelphia, PA, 19119**, in the Mount Airy section of Philadelphia, just off Lincoln Drive.

\$5 suggested donation, cash at the door or via [Paypal](#)

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## Tuesday, March 11, Tea and Talk

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	Yy	Zz			

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**SAC 300, at 12:30 p.m.**

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## Tuesday, March 11: Emma DeSouza Talk: "Change From the Ground Up: The Role of Women, Youth, and Community-Based Movements in Effecting Societal Change in Northern Ireland"



[Emma DeSouza](#) is a journalist, award-winning campaigner, and peace activist who changed UK law in a landmark human rights case relating to the Good Friday Agreement. She is the Founder and Co-facilitator of deliberative democracy platform The Civic Initiative, Director of the Northern Ireland Emerging Leaders Program at the National Committee on American Foreign Policy in New York, and a transatlantic adviser on peace processes and civic

innovation.

## Thursday, March 13: Stephen Sexton, Charles A. Heimbold, Jr. Chair of Irish Studies, Reading

Join us for our annual reading and talk, from the 2025 [Charles A. Heimbold, Jr., Chair for Irish Studies](#), Stephen Sexton, as part of the Villanova Literary Festival.



[Stephen Sexton](#) is an award-winning Northern Irish poet and lecturer at the renowned Seamus Heaney Centre for Poetry at Queen's University Belfast. His pamphlet of poems *Oils* was the 2014 Poetry Book Society's Winter Pamphlet. He is the author of two books of poems – *If All the World and Love Were Young*, published in 2019 and *Cheryl's Destinies*, published in 2021. He is a recipient of multiple awards, which include winning the 2016 National Poetry Competition, the 2018 Eric Gregory Award, the Forward Prize for Best First Collection and the Shine / Strong Award for Best First Collection in 2019, the American Academy of Arts and Letters' E. M. Forster Award and the Rooney Prize for Irish Literature in 2020.

Stephen has been teaching creative writing at the Seamus Heaney Centre for six years. The Centre opened in 2004 and has a legacy that carries a sense of an ethical responsibility on the writer's part. When teaching poetry and poetics, Sexton emphasizes the responsibility of the language and the way that this shared resource is used as a component of community.

**Reception - 6:00 p.m.**

**Reading - 7:00 p.m.**

**Connelly Center, Presidents' Lounge**

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## March TBD: Irish Study Abroad Reunion



Come catch up with your Irish connections! If you are a current Villanova student who has studied abroad in Ireland, or you are a current Villanova student registered to study abroad in Ireland this summer, you're invited St. Patrick's Week to our Irish Study Abroad Reunion!

**TBD, Garey Hall, Office of Education Abroad**

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## Monday, March 17: Irish Trad Music in Connelly Center

In celebration of St. Patrick's Day we will have musician David Brown and the Brown Family Band performing Irish trad music on the Belle Air Terrace Stage during the lunch hours.

**Belle Air Terrace Stage, Connelly Center, at 11:00 - 12:30 p.m.**





### Thursday, March 20: Cauvery Madhavan Talk, Irish-Indian author of *The Tainted* and *The Inheritance*



[Cauvery Madhavan](#) is an Indian born writer living in Ireland who uses her experience of being a migrant in her writing. She will discuss her latest novel, [The Inheritance](#), which was inspired by the real-life mutiny of the Connaught Rangers, who were Irish soldiers in the British Army protesting British abuses in Ireland during the Irish War of Independence. Co-Sponsored by [GIS](#).

**St. Rita's Community Room, at 4:00 p.m.**

### Saturday, March 29: Irish Dance Team Showcase



The Villanova Irish Dance Team will perform their genre-busting Annual Showcase. We hope to see you there!

Check the [Villanova Irish Dance Instrgram](#) account for updates.

**Mullen Center for Performing Arts , 2:00 - 4:00 p.m.**

### Wednesday, April 9: Tea and Talk

Join our Irish language instructors, Dr. Jonathan O'Neill and Micael Malloy for an informal Irish conversation and tea/snacks. No previous Irish required! All Villanova faculty, staff and students are welcome.

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		Yy	Zz		

## Spring 2025 Calendar of Events

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Tea and Talk

SAC 300, at 1:30pm

January 30

**St. Brigid's & James Joyce's Birthday Celebration**

Jack McShea's Pub, in Ardmore, at 7:00 pm

February 12

**Tea and Talk**

SAC 300, at 1:30pm

February 13 - 15

**Lost Lear, Theater Production by Dan Colley**

**Thursday 2/13: 1pm Matinee**

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Tickets on sale now at the  
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March 11

**Tea and Talk**

SAC 300, at 12:30pm

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**Emma DeSouza Talk: "Change From the Ground Up: The Role of Women, Youth, and Community-Based Movements in Effecting Societal Change in Northern Ireland"**

Dougherty Hall, West Lounge, at 4:00 pm

March 13

**Stephen Sexton, Charles A. Heimbold, Jr. Chair of Irish Studies, Reading**

Reception - 6:00 pm

Reading - 7:00 pm

Connelly Center, Presidents' Lounge

March TBD

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Garey Hall, Office of Education Abroad, at TBD

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April 9

### Tea and Talk

SAC 300, at 1:30pm

Visit our Website

Stay Connected



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