Fomhair 2021 / Autumn 2021

Fáilte ar ais! Welcome back!

We are very happy to be back on campus and look forward to seeing everyone, virtually or in-person, in the coming months. We have a lot going on this semester, including the in-person screening and discussion of *The Heart of Camden*, a documentary about Monsignor Michael Doyle, during Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week and the screening of the Irish musical film, *Sing Street*.

We are excited to support the Theatre Department’s upcoming productions of *Samuel Beckett* one-act plays—live and in-person!! Over the course of the pandemic, we have developed our online presence, teaching Irish through our College of Professional Studies. This semester, our work in the digital realm continues.

Our new intern, Emily Poteat, in Falvey Library is digitizing Irish-American materials, from the Friendly Sons of St. Patrick and other groups. This September, we will produce a new podcast this semester with Dr. Kimberly DaCosta on the African American Irish American Diaspora Network. And, a recent Irish Studies graduate, Keith Mathews (pic above), spent the summer doing online archival work with the Jackie Clarke Collection in Ballina, Co. Mayo.

We look forward to welcoming you to our events, whether online or in person (we hope more for the latter soon!). Please know President Peter Donohue has updated our COVID-19 policy, dated August 12, 2021, noting that all visitors to campus, regardless of vaccination status, are required to wear masks inside campus buildings (except when eating and drinking) to help protect our community.

Joseph Lennon, PhD
Emily C. Riley Director
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Villanova University | Center for Irish Studies

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**News and Updates**

**James Ó Conail is our 2021-2022 Fulbright Irish Language Instructor**

We welcome James Ó Conaill to campus. James will be a
wonderful new presence this year, guiding our students through their introductory and intermediate Irish language courses in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, as well as our online course through the College of Professional Studies.

James, a native of Cavan, earned degrees from Trinity College and Maynooth University and has taught Irish and English as a second language in Balbriggan, Dublin, and Indreabhán in the Galway Gaeltacht.

James will also be working with our Irish Cultural Society to bring some Irish music to campus—stay tuned for updates. Tá fáilte romhat, a James!

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History Graduate Student, Emily Poteat, Enjoys Role with Falvey Distinctive Collections and Irish Studies

Over the summer, Emily Poteat began working as a graduate assistant in Irish Studies at Falvey Memorial Library's Distinctive Collections and Digital Engagement. Emily is transcribing materials and stories in the Irish-American Collection in Distinctive Collections, including a diary of the Irish nationalist Joseph McGarrity.

As she said in the Graduate School newsletter, “[McGarrity] brings so much nuance to his diary. He may have been writing while traveling the Irish countryside because there’d be a mark across the entire page where the pen just dragged. Delving into the history of Ireland, its really interesting to hear that perspective from an Irish-American who was so involved in Irish Republican activities.”

Poteat has also transcribed the commonplace book of an Irish-American woman from the late nineteenth century, Mary Linehan. To see what Emily's been working on, check out the following links:
"Green Voices of the Past: First Reflections"
"Green Voices of the Past: A Trip Through Ireland with Joseph McGarrity"
"Green Voices of the Past: The Friends of Irish Freedom and World War I"

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Rediscovering T. A. Daly: Immigrant Voices in Poetry

Our latest online exhibit, Rediscovering T. A. Daly: Immigrant Voices in Poetry, is now available. The exhibit explores the life and works of Thomas Augustine Daly (1871-1948), a native and lifelong Philadelphian; an Irish-American and a Catholic; a journalist, poet, and prolific author; and an early Villanova University alumnus.

These items are also available in the Digital Library, while the exhibit provides context around the poetry—written mainly in Italian-American and Irish-American dialect—for which he was best known.

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Irish Studies Graduated Minor, Keith Mathews Interns at the Jackie Clarke Collection

Keith Mathews, a 2021 Villanova University graduate,
Keith reports that he enjoyed every minute of his experience with the JCC! He graduated this past spring with an Irish Studies minor, a History major and a Fluency in Information Technology (F.I.T.) Certification. This fall he begins taking courses at Rutgers University in their Information and Library Science degree. We wish him the best of luck going forward!

Podcast Season 3, Episode 1: A Conversation with NYU's Dr. Kim McClain DaCosta!

Our podcasts will resume with season 3 this fall! Our first episode will be with NYU Professor, Kimberly McClain DaCosta, PhD.

Kim McClain DaCosta is a sociologist interested in racial inequality and, in particular, the contemporary production of racial boundaries. Her book, *Making Multiracials: State, Family, and Market in the Redrawing of the Color Line* (Stanford University Press, 2007). She teaches courses on race in different societies, social mobility, consumerism, and the commercialization of intimate life. She is one of the organizers of the African American Irish American Diaspora Network and is organizing a conference this fall at NYU, “Where Do We Go from Here?” Revisiting Black-Irish Relations and Responding to a Transnational Moment

Podcast are recordings available on Spotify, Apple Music, and YouTube.

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Fall 2021 Events

**Wednesday, September 8: "Turning Points in History" Lecture, Dipesh Chakrabarty**

We are pleased to co-sponsor a lecture with the Albert LePage Center, “Turning Points in History,” by one of the world’s leading postcolonial scholars, Professor Dipesh Chakrabarty (University of Chicago).

In this inaugural event, Professor Chakrabarty will explore the question of what is a “turning point” in history and discuss his recent work about globalization and climate change.

**Virtual Lecture, 6:00 p.m. Registration required [here](#)**

**Tuesday, September 14: Derry Girls Showing and Discussion**

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

**Location TBD, 7:00 p.m.**
Thursday, September 16: Nonviolence in 20th Century Irish Politics, Lecture by Dr. Maurice Fitzpatrick

Our 2020 Charles A. Heimbold Jr. Chair in Irish Studies will return to give a virtual lecture to Dr. Joseph Lennon's and Dr. Lynne Hartnett's class, "Networks of Revolutions," at 1:00 p.m on Thursday, September 16.

Dr. Fitzpatrick's documentary film, In the Name of Peace: John Hume in America, aired on over 250 PBS stations last spring and will continue to be shown regularly over the next three years. His most recent publication is The Boys of St. Columb's: The Education of a New Ireland. (Notre Dame UP, 2020)

To reserve a spot and get the zoom link to Dr. Lennon's class, 1:00 p.m., please write to irish.studies@villanova.edu.

Saturday, September 18: LCA Dublin Summer Internship Program Family Weekend Presentation for First Year Students

Alumni students from the First-Year Internship Program in Dublin will discuss their experiences from previous summers working in a variety of industries and organizations.

Students spend 8-weeks living, working, and studying in Dublin during this 6-credit Learning Communities Abroad summer program. The Villanova Office of Education Abroad, along with EUSA Dublin and Faculty Program Director, Dr. Jennifer Joyce, will lead the virtual discussion. All first year students and their families are welcome to attend.

Time and online link TBD

Monday, October 25: Villanova Cultural Film Series: Sing Street

Dr. Rena Potok will introduce this rollicking musical film about a boy growing up in Dublin during the 1980s, who escapes his strained family life by starting a band to impress the mysterious girl he likes.

This film screening is part of Villanova's Cultural Film and Lecture Series and will be screened in person at the Connelly Center Cinema.

Connelly Cinema, at 7:00 p.m.
**Wednesday, October 27: Summer Study Abroad Fair**

Come learn about all of our study abroad options in Ireland! We are planning a spring-break trip to the Seamus Heaney Center at Queens University in Belfast, as well as the return of our Galway Summer Program, our LCA program in Dublin, our Abbey Theatre Summer Studio (graduate students) and our internships in Ireland programs, including at the Jackie Clarke Collection!

You may be a freshman, sophomore, junior, senior, or even a graduate student--there are possibilities for all, even graduate students! And, there are scholarship opportunities for every program, including a new Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion scholarship for Ireland.

**Center for Irish Studies Study Abroad Programs.**

Bartley Hall Atrium, 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

**Wednesday, November 3: Irish Cultural Society Discussions of Race in Ireland Series**

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 Villanova students are welcome to take part in the discussion in any capacity. Come and celebrate the stories, films, & music of Irish POC.

Location TBD, at 7:30 p.m.
(VU Students Only)
Contact: Mackenzie O'Reilly

**November 4-14: Beckett Bites**
"Play" | "Footfalls" | "Rockaby" | "Come and Go"

"Nothing is funnier than unhappiness, I grant you that... Yes, yes, it's the most comical thing in the world." - Samuel Beckett

As we reemerge from a world defined by screen interactions to rejoin each other in shared space, we return to the modern theatre’s greatest existential clown. Samuel Beckett’s plays exquisitely capture the powerful longing for connection, the inexorable nature of time, and the sheer absurdity of being human. In this deftly curated collection of four short works, audiences will imaginatively progress from isolation to the communal experience of live performance, alternately laughing at the ridiculous and glimpsing the sublime. **Directed by Edward Sobel**

To view showtimes and purchase tickets [click here](#). The Beckett speaker's night will be November 11; guest is TBD.

**Wildcard Wednesday: November 3**

**The John and Joan Mullen Center for the Performing Arts, Court Theatre**
Wednesday, November 17: The Heart of Camden Film Screening and Keynote Address for Villanova's Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week

*The Heart of Camden* is a documentary about Monsignor Michael Doyle and his life and work in Camden's Waterfront South neighborhood. The documentary centers around Doyle and Heart of Camden, a housing nonprofit founded by the Irish priest in 1984. The film, by Douglas Clayton, Bill Horin and Frank Weiss, looks at Doyle's legacy in Camden, one that includes fighting for education, clean air and water, and livable, affordable housing.

This film screening and talk back with writer and director Douglas Clayton is co-sponsored with Campus Ministry, Peace and Justice & Mission and Ministry.

**Connelly Cinema, at 7:00 p.m.**

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Saturday, November 20: Irish Dance Festival

The Villanova Irish Dance Team is planning to host their annual festival on Saturday, November 20th, hosting teams from across the region--Covid-19 restrictions allowing. Please stay tuned for updates!

[Irish Dance Team Website](#)

**Jake Nevin Field House**

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**Fall 2021 Calendar of Events**

**September 8**

"Turning Points in History" Lecture, Dipesh Chakrabarty

Virtual Lecture, at 6:00 p.m.

[Register here](#)

**September 14**

*Derry Girls* Showing and Discussion

Location TBD, at 7:00 p.m.

(VU students only)

[Contact: Mackenzie O'Reilly](#)

**September 16**

Nonviolence in the 20th Century Irish Politics Lecture, Maurice Fitzpatrick

To reserve a spot and get the zoom link to Dr. Lennon's class, 1:00 p.m., please write to irish.studies@villanova.edu.
LCA Dublin Summer Internship Program Family Weekend Presentation for First Year Students
Location and time TBD

Cultural Film Series - Sing Street
Connelly Cinema, at 7:00 p.m.

Summer Study Abroad Fair
Bartley Hall Atrium, 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Irish Cultural Society Discussions of Race in Ireland Series
Location TBD, at 7:30 p.m. (VU students only)
Contact: Mackenzie O’Reilly

Beckett Bites
"Play" | "Footfalls" | "Rockaby" | "Come and Go"
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Irish Dance Festival
Jake Nevin Field House