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# VILLANOVA UNIVERSITY

## COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS AND SCIENCES

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### CENTER FOR IRISH STUDIES

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## Fáilte ar ais! Welcome back!

### Fomhair 2025 / Autumn 2025

Dia Dhaoibh Everyone,

We look ahead to our new school year for camaraderie, learning, and discovering. We welcome all new and returning students interested in Ireland, Northern Ireland, and Irish culture across the diaspora. Applications are open for the [Dan and Carrie O'Shaughnessy scholarships](#) for the Spring 2026 semester. Two funded students will intern with a member of one of the Houses of Oireachtas (the Irish Parliament) and take courses at University College Dublin.

This semester is going to be full again with lectures, performances, discussions, and celebrations--all open to students and our wider community. We are grateful to begin the semester by welcoming back to campus the O'Learghusa Chalice--a rare 15th-century liturgical piece that survived the brutal Cromwellian invasion. Martin and Teri Dunphy, the custodians of the chalice, will bring it back and donate artworks to Villanova.

This fall we welcome 2021 Heimbold Chair Hannah Khalil who could not be on campus during the pandemic. We will host esteemed psychoanalytical historian Dr. Charles Strozier on the Northern Irish peace process, performance-artist Luke Hasserly on the ecology of Irish bogs, and Dr. Megan Curran from Columbia University who studies children's social policy in Ireland!

Come be a part of our community! Enjoy your studies this season.

Joseph Lennon, Emily C. Riley Director of Irish Studies

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## News and Updates

**New course:** Jonathan O'Neill, PhD, is teaching a new course this semester: GIS 3100: Irish Literature and Postcolonial Studies. Spots open to study with our native of Limerick!



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**New Semester Scholarships in Dublin:** To learn more about the Dan and Carrie O'Shaughnessy Scholarships [click here](#). Schedule [a meeting](#)



with the [Office of Education Abroad](#) for more details (**Deadline to apply for Spring 2026: Sept 15**).



**VU Semester in Galway:** To learn more about spending either Fall or Spring semester abroad at University of Galway, [click here](#). Schedule a [meeting with the Office of Education Abroad](#) for more details (**Deadline to apply for Spring 2026: Oct. 15**).

### New Podcast Episode - Season 7, Episode 1: Auther Cauvery Madhavan

This episode highlights [Cauvery Madhavan's](#) journey from India to Ireland, where she reflects on the challenges and opportunities of migration, from adapting to small-town life to building community and a sense of belonging. She emphasizes how migration shaped her identity and writing, blending Indian perspectives with Irish experiences. Through her novels—particularly *The Inheritance* and *The Tainted*—Madhavan explores these complex diasporas.

Listen on [Youtube](#), [Spotify](#) or [Apple podcasts](#)



## Fall 2025 Events

### Wednesday, September 10: Martin and Teri Dunphy Poleberry Award Presentation



Martin and Teri Dunphy will be presenting Villanova University with items from their collection, which includes Irish artwork and the O'Learghusa Chalice. The Dunphys will also honor Emily C. Riley Director, Joseph Lennon, with the 2025 Poleberry Foundation inaugural *Vision* award, for his help with coordinating the Irish chalice event in 2022 and subsequent tour. In 2021, a pre-reformation Irish Chalice dating to the year 1480 (named the O'Learghusa Chalice) was discovered and sold for the first time at auction in the United Kingdom.

Researchers at the Victoria and Albert Museum, the Ashmolean Museum, the National Museum of Ireland, and University College Cork provided context and a methodology for scientifically studying the chalice. We look forward to displaying the chalice this year.

**St. Augustine Center, Fedigan Room 400 at 4:00pm**

### Saturday, September 13: College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Preview Day



We invite prospective Villanova students to experience and learn about the distinct benefits of a Villanova education at our Fall Preview Days! Hear from our Irish Studies students, faculty, and staff who will share with you what makes our Center so special.

[Registration required](#)

**Villanova University, Finneran Pavilion at 1:00 - 4:00pm**

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### **Thursday, September 25: Charles B. Strozier talk: "The Miracle of the Good Friday Agreement and the Creation of a Fair and Just Democracy"**

Join us for a talk by Charles B. Strozier, author of [\*Making Peace in Northern Ireland: The Miracle of the Good Friday Agreement and the Creation of a Fair and Just Democracy\*](#). Charles B. Strozier, PhD, is Emeritus Professor of History, John Jay College and the Graduate Center, The City University of New York, and a practicing psychoanalyst. His newest book project discusses the remarkable transition to peace in Northern Ireland after decades of violence from a psychological perspective.



**Dougherty Hall, East Lounge at 4:00pm**

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### **Friday, September 26: Study Abroad Fair**



Come learn about all of our study- and intern- abroad options in Ireland! We offer many programs, including our Galway Summer and Semester Programs, our Summer Early Years' Experience (EYE) in Dublin, our Abbey Theatre Summer Studio, our O'Shaughnessy Semester Internship in the Irish Parliament and our summer internship at the Jackie Clark Museum in Mayo.

You may be a freshman, sophomore, junior, senior, or even a graduate student--there are possibilities for all! And, thanks to generous donors we offer scholarship opportunities for every program.

[Center for Irish Studies Study Abroad Programs](#)

**Oreo Riley Ellipse, 11:30am to 3:00pm; Rain location: Dougherty Hall Lounges**

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### **Thursday, October 2: Megan Curran Talk: "Child Poverty and the Child Tax Credit and US-Irish Comparisons"**

Megan A. Curran is the Director of Policy at the [Center on Poverty and Social Policy](#) at Columbia University. Her work explores how the



tax system and social safety net can better support children and families and how lessons learned from strategies to reduce child poverty can be shared across countries. Curran has worked as a policy researcher on child and family poverty and policy solutions in the United States, United Kingdom, and Ireland, including as a legislative fellow in the United States House of Representatives and a legislative aide in the Scottish Parliament. She holds a PhD in Social Policy from University College Dublin, Ireland.



**St. Augustine Center, Fedigan Room 400 at 6:00pm**

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**Thursday 10/23: Panel Discussion: *Am fear a chailleas a chanain caillidh e a shaoghal* (Scottish Gaelic Proverb: *He who loses his language loses his world*)**



Join us for a panel discussion that will explore what is at stake when languages are endangered, from the loss of cultural memory and folk knowledge to the weakening of sustainable practices embedded in traditional lifeways. Drawing on examples from the Oneida and Mohawk languages in New York, the Irish language, and indigenous languages of Southeast Asia, speakers will discuss the struggles and opportunities of revitalizing linguistic and ecological sustainability together. Co-sponsored by Asian Studies



Panelists include Jasmine Jimerson (Oneida and Mohawk language educator and activist), [Nathan Badenoch](#) (Director of Villanova's Asian Studies) and [Jonathan Ó Néill](#) (Villanova Professor of Irish Language & Culture).

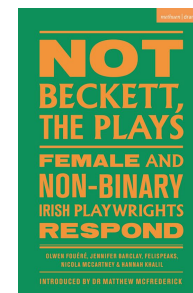
**Garey Hall, Alumni Events Room 31, at 6:00pm**

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**Thursday, October 30: Hannah Khalil's Anthology Launch: *Not Beckett, The Plays: Female and Non-binary Irish Playwrights Respond***

Join us for a talk with our 2021 Charles A. Heimbold Jr. Chair or Irish Studies, Palestinian-Irish playwright, [Hannah Khalil](#).

What does Irish heritage mean to members of the modern-day diaspora? Global playwrights Olwen Fouéré, Jennifer Barclay, FELISPEAKS, Nicola McCartney and Hannah Khalil make their mark with five unique pieces loosely inspired by seeds from the Beckett canon.



Each short play provides an ideal vehicle for students and readers to further explore the artistic influence of Samuel Beckett's work through a modern-day, multicultural lens. Co-sponsored by Villanova's Gender and Women Studies and the Theater Department.

**The John and Joan Mullen Center for the Performing Arts, Smith Lab at 6:00pm**



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**Thursday, November 13 & Friday, November 14: *Distillation* by Luke Casserly**



[Distillation](#) is a performative journey which takes you to the Irish bog landscape through scent. A response to the recent cessation of the peat harvesting industry in Ireland, this part interactive lecture, part performance features original text, video, sound, sculpture and scent. Irish multidisciplinary performance maker [Luke Casserly](#) has collaborated with perfume maker [Joan Woods](#) to create a unique distillation of the Midlands bog as the starting point for an olfactory encounter that looks at our relationship to our broken landscapes in the hope that by listening to them, we might be able to better understand them. Co-sponsored by the Communication Department.

There will be three performances each day, 50 minutes in length, accommodating up to 25 audience members, including a Friday evening performance (7pm). **All are welcome to attend, space is limited. If you are interested in reserving a spot, please contact Danielle Redden, Center Administrator at [d.redden@villanova.edu](mailto:d.redden@villanova.edu).**

Garey Hall, Communications Department Studio

## Saturday in November: Villanova Irish Dance Festival

The Villanova Irish Dance Team will host the Irish Dance Festival, hosting teams and musical guests from across the region.

Stay tuned to the [Villanova Irish Dance Team Instagram](#) page for updates!

Villanova University, Location and time TBD



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St. Augustine Center, Fedigan Room 400 at 4:00pm

September 13

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[Registration Required](#)

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Dougherty Hall, East Lounge at 4:00pm

September 26

### Study Abroad Fair

Oreo Riley Ellipse at 11:30am - 3:00pm  
(Rain location - Dougherty Hall Lounges)

October 2

**Megan Curran talk: "Child Poverty and the Child Tax Credit and US-Irish Comparisons"**

St. Augustine Center, Fedigan room 300 at 6pm

October 23

**Panel Discussion: *Am fear a chailleas a chanain caillidh e a shaoghal* (Scottish Gaelic Proverb: *He who loses his language loses his world*)**

Garey Hall, Alumni Events room 31 at 6:00pm

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The John and Joan Mullen Center for the Performing Arts, Smith Lab at 6pm

November 13 - 14

***Distillation* by Luke Casslery**

Garey Hall, Communications Department Studio

November

**Irish Dance Fall Festival**

Location and time TBD

Visit our  
Website

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