

VILLANOVA UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS AND SCIENCES



CENTER FOR IRISH STUDIES

Fáilte ar ais! Welcome back!

Fomhair 2026 / Autumn 2026

Dia Dhaoibh Everyone,

Welcome back to all of our students, faculty, and community members. We look forward to a great year for the Center for Irish Studies! We have an early deadline for applying for the prestigious O'Shaughnessy Internship Fellowship in Dublin at the Dáil Éireann.

We welcome James Ó Flatharta to campus from An Cheathru Rua in Galway (via Dublin) as an Irish language Fulbright this year. We will also be hosting an Irish language immersion weekend and an Irish conversation group, Tae agus Plé for those interested in learning some Irish.

Also, if any Irish Studies students are interested in attending an academic conference this semester, please reach out. We will be traveling to Seton Hall University in November to present and learn from other students and scholars. Please email our wonderful Center Administrator, Danielle Redden for information: d.redden@villanova.edu

Joseph Lennon, Emily C. Riley Director

News and Updates

Scholarships and Study Abroad Deadlines

Prestigious Internship Scholarships in Dublin: To learn more about the Dan and Carrie O'Shaughnessy Internship Scholarships at the Dáil Éireann [click here](#). Schedule [a meeting with the Office of Education Abroad](#) for more details. (**Deadline to apply for Spring 2027: September 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 2027: October 15**)

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James Ó Flatharta, our new Fulbright Language Teaching Assistant (FLTA)



We welcome James Ó Flatharta, who will join us for the 2026-2027 academic year, teaching Irish language courses with Professor Jonathan O'Neill. James has completed multiple degrees during his studies, he has a Bachelor of Arts in Irish & Maths from the University of Galway, an MA in Media from Mary Immaculate College and an MSc in Marketing from Maynooth University. As a Conamara native, James is passionate about the Irish language in both his personal and professional life, for the past two years he has taught Irish in DCU with Fiontar & Scoil na Gaeilge. James is looking forward to his year ahead as an FLTA awardee to teach Irish at Villanova University. Please welcome James when you see him!

Rooted Hearts: Discovering Your Family/Neighbor's Roots - What's your migration story?



This fall, the [Mother Cabrini Institute on Immigration](#) and [Falvey Library](#) invite Villanova students, faculty, and staff to discover and share the migration stories that shaped their families and communities.

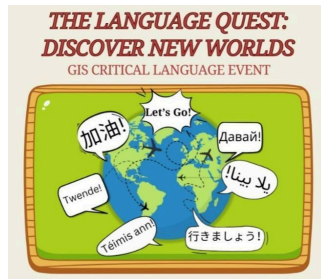
Participants in *Rooted Hearts* will have **free access to Ancestry.com through Falvey Library** to research family origins, ancestors, and migration routes. **Two hands-on workshops in late September**, led by Falvey librarian Jutta Seibert, will help participants get started: one on researching your family history using Ancestry.com and another on turning what you discover into a digital timeline or poster.

Completed projects will be **displayed across campus November 9–11** and judged by the Villanova community. Winners will be announced **November 13**, with **\$1,200 in cash prizes**.

Open to students, faculty and staff. For more information on how to participate, please email d.redden@villanova.edu

Department of Global Interdisciplinary Studies' annual "Language Quest: Discover New Worlds"

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Join the [Department of Global Interdisciplinary Studies](#) (GIS) for their annual critical language event. Students can engage with GIS' critical languages and learn new phrases in Irish Gaelic, Chinese, Japanese, Arabic, Swahili and Russian! Get your GIS passport to collect your language stamps (from all the language tables) and win fun prizes!

This event is sponsored by [Africana Studies](#), [Asian Studies](#), [Center for Arab and Islamic Studies](#), [Center for Irish Studies](#), and [Office of Education Abroad](#).

Friday, September 25 at 1:00-3:00pm at the Oreo
(rain location: Dougherty Hall)

Fall 2026 Events

Wednesday, September 16: Welcome Back Info Session

Join our Irish Studies professors, staff, and student minors and majors for a welcome back gathering. Featuring Irish trad musicians, we'll talk about Ireland study abroad opportunities, along with the many scholarships that are available. We will also introduce James Ó Flatharta in person during the welcome back event.



Pizza will be served!

Dougherty Hall, West Lounge at 5:30-6:30pm

Friday, September 25: 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 [Galway 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](#)

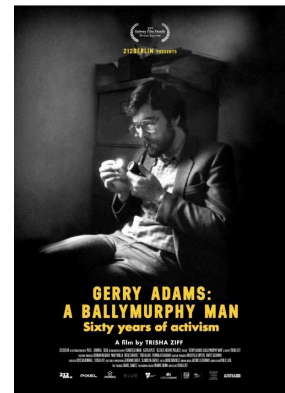
Oreo Riley Ellipse at 1:30-4:30pm; Rain location: Dougherty Hall Lounges

Saturday, September 26: Gerry Adams: A Ballymurphy Man Film Screening

Join the Center for Irish Studies, in partnership with the [Terence MacSwiney Club](#) and [TarAnall America](#), for a film screening of [Gerry Adams: A Ballymurphy Man](#), a film depicting a veteran politician who reflects on 60 years of Northern Ireland activism, from prisoner to statesman. This documentary explores regional history through his life, offering hope and insight into his values and peace efforts.

A talkback with director Trisha Ziff will follow the screening.

Mullen Center, Smith Lab at 2:00pm



Saturday, October 3: Irish Language Immersion Weekend



Join Irish Studies professor, Dr. Jonathan O'Neill for a full day of Irish language. Open to Irish speakers of all levels, even beginners! This full day of Irish language immersion will consist of two classes, lunch and a talk from speaker, [Nick Wolfe](#) from NYU.

If interested in attending, please email Danielle Redden (dredden@villanova.edu) for more information.

Bí linn! – Join us!

Monday, November 2: Villanova Cultural Film Series: *Song of the Sea*

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Dr. Jonathan O'Neill will introduce [Song of the Sea](#), an award-winning animated fantasy film by Irish animation film studio, [Cartoon Saloon](#).

Song of the Sea tells the story of Ben and his little sister Saoirse – the last Seal-child – who embark on a fantastic journey across a fading world of ancient legend and magic in an attempt to return to their home by the sea. The film takes inspiration from the mythological Selkies of Irish folklore, who live as seals in the sea but become humans on land.

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 Center Cinema at 7:00pm

Friday and Saturday, November 6-7: American Conference for Irish Studies (ACIS) Mid-Atlantic Conference



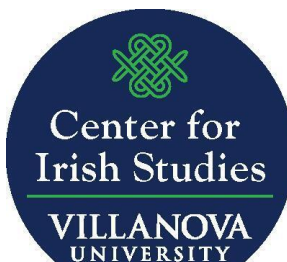
The Center for Irish Studies faculty, staff and students will attend this year's [ACIS Mid-Atlantic Regional conference](#) at Seton Hall University discussing the theme, "Not a monoculture: Ideas of Irishness."

The newly digitized 1926 Ireland census challenges earlier conceptions of the Irish State as monolithic, with the prevalence of immigrants in the census showing Ireland was "not a monoculture," writes *Guardian* writer Rory Carroll. What kind of "Irishness" did/do emigrants carry with them as they moved away from the island nation, and what ideas about Irishness and gender did/do immigrants develop when they made Ireland their home?

Students who are interested in attending should reach out to Danielle Redden: dredden@villanova.edu

Seton Hall University, New Jersey

Monday, November 16: Sustainability in Irish Arts and Culture Lecture



Professors Joseph Lennon and Jonathan O'Neill will present on new work on sustainability in Irish culture. They are jointly editing a special issue of the *American Journal of Irish Studies*, which will be coming out in the spring and presents work by leading Irish scholars on how Irish culture is confronting the climate crisis and creating new ways of understanding sustainability.

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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

irishstudies.villanova.edu | irish.studies@villanova.edu

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