

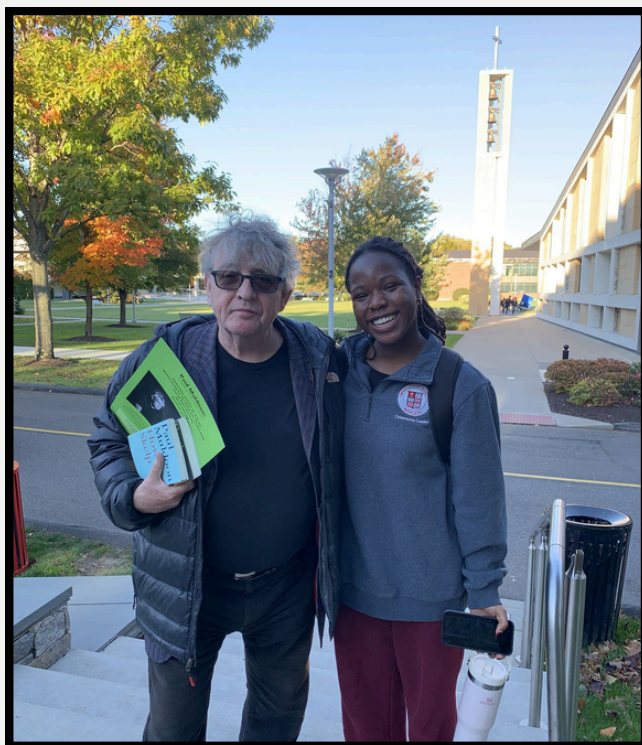


Sacred Heart
UNIVERSITY



OLLSCOIL SACRED HEART
Fairfield, Connecticut • Campas Daingean Uí Chúis
SACRED HEART UNIVERSITY
Fairfield, Connecticut • Dingle Campus

We are delighted to share that Irish Studies at SHU is now officially the Center for Irish Studies! With the support of the College of Arts and Sciences, SHU in Dingle, multiple academic departments, and research programs at our campuses in Fairfield and Ireland, we look forward to foregrounding Irish culture and history in a way that also demonstrates SHU's broader commitment to the liberal arts. We will be celebrating further when our new campus center opens in Dingle in March, 2025. Enrollment is open until January 20 for our summer Dingle programs: take a look at our diverse offerings, including several new courses.



Pulitzer-prize winning poet Paul Muldoon with SHU student and Dingle alum Jhalissa Vincent.

The Fall 2024 Irish Studies speakers offered lively insights on Irish culture and research, and particularly contemporary Irish writing. Prize-winning authors—novelist Claire Kilroy and poet Paul Muldoon—read from their new books, while scholar Jonathan O'Neill of Villanova presented the annual John Moriarty lecture. SHU was delighted to continue our support of the African American Irish Diaspora Network at their annual Gala and through SHU scholarships ([learn more here](#)). We finished the fall season with Irish song and dance at the always-festive Cherish the Ladies event at the SHU Community Theatre.

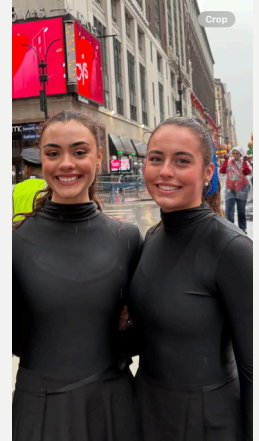
This semester's newsletter highlights student and faculty coursework and research in Fairfield and Dingle, including a collaborative conference on Regenerative Tourism at the Dingle campus. Special thanks go to our work study students Emma Jerue and Lila Ferber (especially on this newsletter!). We hope you will follow us on social media (links above) and [our events page](#) to see what we have coming up for Spring 2025, including NYU scholar Dr. Marion Casey, Irish poet Sara Berkeley, an Irish-language day and traditional music from Dervish at the SHU Community Theatre. Happy New Year!

—Abby Bender and John Roney, co-directors of the Center for Irish Studies
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Student and Faculty News

Two of SHU's Claddagh Dancers—our highly skilled, nationally ranked, competitive Irish dance team—performed at the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade with the cast of Riverdance. Comhghairdeas [congratulations] to Liz Kennedy and Rachael Reynolds!

The Claddagh Dancers will perform on Friday April 11th at 7:00 PM in the Edgerton Center for Performing Arts. [Tickets here.](#)



Faculty members Abby Bender, Marie Hulme, and John Roney all presented papers at the "Ireland at Risk" Mid-Atlantic/New England Regional American Conference for Irish Studies meeting at Baruch College, CUNY. The conference was an interdisciplinary exploration of risk in Irish culture, from the environmental to the economic to the literary and artistic. Schedule in the link at left.

International Regenerative Tourism Conference



In November SHU supported the International Regenerative Tourism Conference, hosted by Munster Technological University (MTU), to explore sustainable tourism through a regenerative lens. SHU faculty members attending the conference included Dean Mark Beekey, Kirk Bartholomew, and John Roney, pictured above with Senior Researcher Fiona Scott-Hayward and Executive Head of School for Business, Computing & Humanities Mary Rose Stafford, both of Munster Technological University.

The conference addressed the challenges to the environment with increased tourism in Europe, and included stakeholders in tourism, policy makers, local authorities, and academics working towards sustainability. The conference comes at a critical time for tourism in Dingle, as the Irish government develops early plans to create the first National Maritime Park (Páirc Náisiúnta na Mara) in Ireland that consists of large areas of the west of the Dingle peninsula.

More News



Students in Kelly Marino's (History) Fall 2024 Introduction to Women's Studies course researched and created illustrated profiles of notable Dingle women, such as Peig Sayers (far left). The beautiful posters graced the halls of the Humanities Lounge in December. This wonderful project was supported by the Presidential Seminar.

This year's eighth annual College of Arts & Sciences Conference (CASCon) showcased faculty research on history and memory in contemporary Irish Poetry, with papers by Languages and Literature department members Abby Bender, June-Ann Greeley, and Marie Hulme.



Hilary Sweeney's Beginning Irish I course included the lovely dog Crew (left), while the faculty/staff course continued to meet weekly (right). Irish language classes take place in the Shanachie Room/Seomra an tSeanchaí, in the Ryan Matura Library.



For the seventh year, students and faculty represented SHU in Dingle at the Eastern States Exhibition in West Springfield, MA, also known as "The Big E." Sharing a space with Dingle's sustainability-focused community tourism group the Dingle Peninsula Tourism Alliance, this is a lively and informative space for visitors to the fair. John Roney organized the many students and faculty who volunteered their time to work in "The Dingle Pavillion," and we are grateful for their participation, especially the students who shared their wonderful experiences studying abroad in Ireland.



Join SHU on a Celebratory Dingle Trip! June 27 - July 5, 2025

Alumni, staff, faculty, and friends are invited to join us for a special trip to celebrate the 20th anniversary of SHU in Dingle. The trip includes guided tours of the Dingle Peninsula's most scenic and iconic areas, from Conor Pass to the Maharees to Sleah Head and the Blasket Islands. For information, see [Taste of Dingle](#) on our website.

Scenes from Dingle, 2024



Students in Professor Billy Mag Fhloinn's Celtic Religious Traditions course in Fall 2024 took part in bronze casting.



Fall semester students learned Gaelic football.

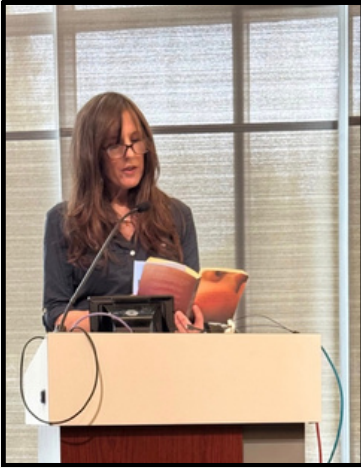
It is said that lovers who pledge themselves to each by touching fingers through the ogham stone by Kilmalkedar Church will be betrothed forever. Billy Mag Fhloinn officiated at a ceremony for SHU faculty members Nathan Lewis (Art) and Luciana McClure-Lewis (Art and Art History). Professor Lewis teaches Introduction to Painting in the May II Dingle session.



During the Fall 2024 semester, SHU in Dingle students taking Fundamentals of Nutrition with Professor John O'Connor of [@target.nutrition](https://www.targetnutrition.com) visit the Kerry GAA Center of Excellence. This is a state-of-the-art facility located an hour outside Dingle, dedicated to supporting Kerry athletes within the Gaelic Athletic Association.

Irish Studies Speakers, Fall 2024

Claire Kilroy, reading and in conversation on September 23



sponsored by the Center for Irish Studies, the Department of Languages and Literature, Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, and the Human Journey

Claire Kilroy's rich and complex novels have offered us opportunities for propulsive and totally consuming reading, for rethinking what characters know, what we know, and for all sorts of awakenings. Her newest novel, *Soldier Sailor*, has been lauded as an intense, raw, but also intricately structured and beautifully written exploration of the ruptures and transformations of early motherhood. She joined us for a reading and conversation about her new book and the writing process. Kilroy lives in Dublin and her four previous novels include *Tenderwire* and *The Devil I Know*.

Paul Muldoon, reading and in conversation on October 16

*sponsored by
the Center for Irish Studies,
the Department of Languages and
Literature, and the Human Journey*



We were delighted to welcome Pulitzer-Prize winning poet Paul Muldoon, who followed the reading of each of his poems with rich reflections on their composition and meaning. The reading proved to be a wonderful, intimate conversation with the audience as well as an introduction to some of Muldoon's best-loved poems, as well as a wonderful ode to Dingle, where we hope he will visit us soon! Recently called "Irish poetry's most prominent shapeshifter" (Irish Examiner), Muldoon has published 15 full length collections of poetry, as well as works in many other genres. He has served as the poetry editor of the *New Yorker* and Professor of Poetry at Oxford, as well as Ireland Professor of Poetry and Professor at Princeton.

The Annual John Moriarty Lecture presented by Jonathan O'Neill on November 4

"Invoking Ireland": John Moriarty, Tim Robinson and Linguistic Ecologies

sponsored by the Center for Irish Studies, the Department of Languages and Literature, the Human Journey, and the Institute for Sustainability and Social Justice

This semester's John Moriarty Lecture offered a powerful reflection on literature, the environment, and the concept of "linguistic ecologies" by Jonathan O'Neill, Assistant Professor of Irish Language and Culture at Villanova. Pioneer Journey director and Assistant Professor of Catholic Studies Charles Gillespie introduced Dr. O'Neill and provided a history of SHU's connection to Irish philosopher and writer John Moriarty and the John Moriarty Institute for Ecology and Spirituality, founded by SHU with the aim of engaging with Moriarty's critical work on spirituality and the environment. Professor John Roney serves as a director with Dr. Gillespie serving as a board member.



Spotlight on Dingle Faculty:

Dara Jauch



Dara Jauch holds a Bachelor of Arts in Communication Studies from Dublin City University and a Higher Diploma in Television and Video Production from Kerry College. Professor Jauch works as a co-producer and editor with award-winning production companies in Dingle, producing documentaries on Human Rights, art, culture and music for broadcasters like RTÉ, BBC and TG4. As well as working in the field, she has taught video production to all ages throughout her 14 year career. Jauch is a fluent Irish and German speaker and a Cork native who loves living in Dingle.

What classes do you teach at SHU in Dingle?

I teach "Capturing Your Irish Adventures" (CM231/CM103), an introductory course on video creation that centres around the stunning scenery and vibrant community of Dingle. I also lead the Internship module (CM396), where students gain hands-on experience working with local businesses, festivals, and community projects to help with marketing and social media.

What do you love about these classes?

What I love about "Capturing Your Irish Adventures" is seeing the students' confidence grow throughout the semester. It's rewarding to see students explore storytelling from their own personal perspectives living in a new town. This module allows students to capture the beauty, history, and culture of Dingle through their own lens which leads to creative and meaningful work. At the end of each semester we hold a "Showcase" to exhibit the students' video and photography work.

How does your industry work inform your teaching?

Outside of teaching with SHU, I work as a documentary producer and editor so in both classes I can share knowledge about working in that industry, from the research stage, to setting up interviews with people, the types of questions to ask and how to edit a final piece using different editing software.





Student Spotlight: Nathalia Collazo, English

What was your favorite aspect of studying abroad in Dingle?

My favorite aspect about studying abroad in Dingle was being able to travel independently. Granted, I was not really all on my own, as I had help from the Global office, and there were other Sacred Heart students at the airport. I still felt independent because I purchased this whole program on my own with my own money, and I had the privilege of getting my own room for the first time in my life. This experience was a door opener for sure. Of course there were other favorites, like the activities they had for us. My favorite activity amongst the many was horseback riding. I have always wanted to do it, and I was finally able to.

What were your classes like?

I am an English major with minors in psychology and writing. So I mostly went for the “Writing Identity in Ireland” course. Coincidentally enough, the course helped me discover who I am as a writer. The other courses were Celtic Religious Traditions and Community, Culture, and Folklore. CRT had some hard moments. In order to do well in the course, you had to really know the material, study notes, and study for the tests and essays. Community, Culture, and Folklore was one of my favorites, along with Writing Identity. Dáithí was really nice and engaging. Overall, the professors were understanding and easy-going.

Did you learn anything about yourself while embarking on this opportunity to study abroad?

I discovered that not only could I live alone, but I could also take care of myself and take precautions when traveling alone. I have the experience of cleaning, baking, cooking, doing laundry and practicing safety, which makes me capable of being independent. I appreciated the alone time and independence that I had while I was abroad. It was a great learning opportunity.



Upcoming Irish Studies Courses for Spring 2025

THE IRISH STUDIES MINOR is growing! With courses in various departments every semester in both Fairfield and Dingle, the minor can be completed even in your final years at SHU. Please reach out to Professor Abby Bender if you are interested in learning more.

Below you can find our upcoming Irish Studies courses for Spring 2025 in Fairfield. If you are interested in studying in Dingle, there are many more Irish Studies at our campus there. For more information on Irish Studies in Dingle, contact Dr. Abby Bender (bendera5@sacredheart.edu) or see shuindingle.com.

Irish Poetry (3 credits)



Spring 2025 ENG 299 (3 Credits)

Prof. Abby Bender | Mon 11 AM-12:15 PM & Wed 12:30-1:45 PM

In this course, we will read poems by some of the greatest writers of the twentieth and twenty-first centuries, including Seamus Heaney, Eavan Boland, Paul Muldoon, and Nuala Ní Dhomhnaill. Although we will trace Irish poetry beginning in the 1930s with the influence of W.B. Yeats, the emphasis will be on more recent poetry. We will explore recent collections by Doireann Ní Ghríofa, Sean Hewitt, Nidhi Zak/Aria Eipe, Stephen Sexton, Victoria Kennefick, and others. Some of our poets write in the Irish language, and we will read their work in translation.

Irish Step Production (1 Credit)



Spring 2025 DA 303

Ms. Kari A. Williams

Wednesday 6:30-7:45 PM & 8:00-10:00 PM

This course focuses on the development of technical proficiency and performance elements in Irish dance. Classes and choreography will model advanced level technique within this discipline.

Celtic and Irish History (3 credits)



Spring 2025 HI 255

Professor John B. Roney

Tuesdays & Thursday 11 AM -12:15 PM

This course surveys the history of Ireland or Stair na hÉireann from the ancient Celts in Europe, medieval clans, mythology, art, and numerous invasions, to the rise of a distinctive Celtic Christianity. It will highlight important places of memory (megalithic tombs, hill forts, monasteries, battlefields, rivers and coastal sites) as well as mythological heroes and historic figures who contributed to a distinctive culture still present in modern Ireland. The majority of the course will examine modern political, economic, and social developments in Ireland from 1600 to the present, with a concentration on nineteenth and twentieth century struggles for survival in epidemics and famines, immigration, modernization, and independence. Attention will be given to how Ireland rediscovered its unique history in the Celtic Revival movement that resurrected literature, language, sports, heroes, and events that awakened national identity. After 1922 the majority of the island found independence from Britain, and slowly developed into a modern economy and society.

*Fulfills the Liberal Arts Explorations requirements in the CORE for Humanistic Inquiry and Social and Global Awareness.

Traditional Irish Music (3 credits)



Spring 2025 MU 106

Th 5:00 PM - 7:30 PM

Prof. Chelsey Zimmerman

Students will survey the development of Irish Music from pre-Christian times through to the present, have the opportunity to attend live performances, and learn to play the Irish whistle. This course provides students with a thorough overview of traditional Irish music, song and dance from their earliest references right up to today's influence on the world music stage. Aural, as well as some basic traditional musicianship skills, will be developed over the course. The course will study the history and development of the traditional music sessions or "céilí," and will enable students to savor traditional music in its natural social setting. The course will study the history and development of the tradition, while also ensuring the students gain a deeper understanding by learning some practical skills.



*Fulfills the Humanistic Inquiry LAE requirement.