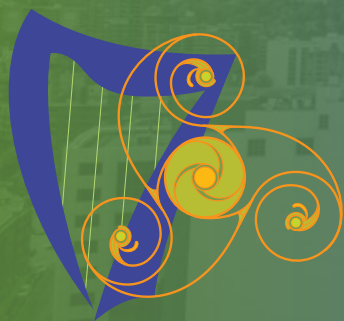


2026



Canadian Irish Studies Foundation

FUNDAMENTALS

NEWSLETTER FOR FRIENDS OF IRISH STUDIES



FORGING THE FUTURE

Meet our passionate scholarship winners

PLUS: TIONÓL CHEOIL MONTREAL — HOSTING WORLD-RENOWNED
WILLIE CLANCY SUMMER SCHOOL THIS SPRING



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A message from the CISF chair

Navigating challenges thanks to donor support



Quebec's higher-education sector has endured several financially difficult years, and Concordia — more than any other university — has unfortunately borne the brunt of that challenge.

The Government of Quebec has imposed a two-year freeze on operating grants, holding university funding at last year's levels, despite rising costs. At the same time, Concordia is experiencing enrolment declines driven by stricter federal student visa rules and provincial tuition policy changes. Our university is particularly vulnerable in this policy environment due to its reliance on out-of-province and international student enrolment and revenues.

Despite these challenges, the School of Irish Studies continues to thrive. As this newsletter illustrates, our faculty pursue innovative research, publish extensively, mentor graduate students, all while keeping up with their classroom teaching roles to deliver a broad range of Irish Studies courses. Our undergraduate and graduate students continue to win academic prizes and engage in advanced scholarship in Canada, Ireland and beyond.

The continued success of the School of Irish Studies is made possible thanks to the long-standing generosity of donors to the Canadian Irish Studies Foundation (CISF), to whom we are deeply grateful. Without this tremendous financial support, the School of Irish Studies would simply not exist. In Concordia's current budgetary context, our School of Irish Studies — and its students and faculty — depends on this support more than ever.

On behalf of the CISF's trustees, I thank Gearóid Ó hAllmhuráin for his three-year term as principal of the School of Irish Studies, completed in June 2025. His leadership and dedication brought the school to new heights. I also congratulate Gavin Foster on assuming the role in July. I wish him the best of luck and look forward to continued close collaboration between the CISF and the School of Irish Studies under his leadership.

Patrick M. Shea
Chair, Canadian Irish Studies Foundation

School of Irish Studies faculty news

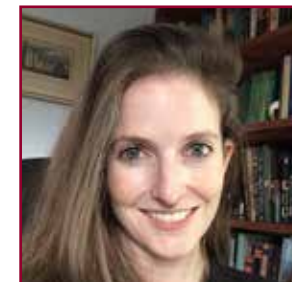
Faculty in focus



Gavin Foster (History) was promoted to full professor in 2025 and began his term as principal of the School of Irish Studies in July. He recently spoke at an Irish Famine memorial event at the historic Notre-Dame-de-Bon-Secours Chapel. Last fall, he presented on his Irish Revolution research at the annual meeting of the North American Conference on British Studies.



Gearóid Ó hAllmhuráin (Ethnomusicology) recently completed his three-year term as principal of the School of Irish Studies. He has returned to his research work in early Irish history. He spent the summer researching Irish Carolingian gospels housed in the Stiftsbibliothek Library in Switzerland, one of the oldest monastic libraries in the world.



Jane McGaughey (Diaspora Studies) was promoted to full professor in spring 2025. She recently received a \$42,000 Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) grant for her project on Sir Guy Carleton, the Irish-born governor of Quebec during the American Revolution. She is on sabbatical this academic year, researching in Ireland, the U.K., Canada and New York City.



Emer O'Toole (Performance Studies) was promoted to full professor in June 2025. In May, she won a \$44,500 grant to develop a series of performance lectures. She recently sold the rights to her first novel, *Do It Yourself*, to Douglas & McIntyre for publication in 2026.



Máirtín Coilféir (Irish Language) received tenure this year. His edited collection, *An Soiscéal de réir Alan Titley* (The Gospel According to Alan Titley), will soon be published by Leabhar Breac. He spoke at the European Federation of Associations and Centres of Irish Studies conference in Helsinki and has forthcoming essays on 20th-century translation and on animal noises in medieval Irish poetry.



Keelan Harkin (Literature) recently completed his mid-tenure review. This year he is researching the novel in 1930s Ireland, supported by a SSHRC grant. He has contributed essays to two major edited volumes, one on the works of Elizabeth Bowen and the other a forthcoming *Cambridge History of the Irish Novel*.



Katie Young (Cultural Geography) recently published an open-access textbook titled *The Making of the Irish Landscape*, as well as chapters in edited collections including *The Irish Pub* and *Urban Nightlife and Contested Spaces*. She is excited to welcome a new PhD student this year, Mayu Egan, whose work explores Montreal's Irish traditional music community.

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CANADIAN IRISH STUDIES FOUNDATION FUNDAMENTALS

Executive editor: Emer O'Toole

Editor: Louise Morgan

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Meet our talented scholarship recipients

Read about some of this year's three dozen winners and see how donor support has expanded opportunities with new awards.

GRADUATE



PhD candidate **Victoria Kelly** won the Bishop Michael F. Fallon Memorial Fellowship, worth \$19,100. Michael Francis Fallon was born on May 17, 1867. He graduated from the University of Ottawa with a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1889. He enjoyed English literature and history, was one of

the first editors of *The Owl*, a prestigious University of Ottawa publication, and was a member of the university rugby team.

He later studied in Holland and Rome, received his Doctor of Divinity degree and was ordained to the priesthood in 1894. After being ordained, he went back to the University of Ottawa and served as vice-rector, the chair of English Literature and as coach to the university rugby team.

He was a pastor at St. Joseph's Church in Ottawa and was appointed to serve as a parish priest in Buffalo, N.Y., before returning to Ontario and being consecrated by the Holy See as Bishop of London.

Kelly's doctoral research examines the Irish diaspora's engagement with Canada's eugenics movement from the turn of the 20th century to the Second World War.

"I am honoured to be the recipient of the Bishop Michael F. Fallon Memorial Fellowship. This generous award allows me to fully dedicate my time to my research and to consult archives in Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Quebec and Ontario," says Kelly.



Kayla Fanning, BA 19, MA 21, is the recipient of an Irish Studies Graduate Award, worth \$10,000. Her doctoral research maps the ways in which contemporary Irish writers engage with myth.

"This financial support means a lot to me. I can focus fully on my doctoral work, highlighting women authors who give hope to girls in Ireland and beyond," says Fanning.



Alice D. Tremea won the Father Thomas Daniel McEntee Scholarship, worth \$4,500. Her doctoral research compares the contemporary horror films of Ireland and Latin America.

"I am very thankful for support from CISF. It is an honour and a joy to contribute to Irish cultural studies, especially in relation to my native Latin America," says Tremea.



Katherine Diamond, BA 25, received the Irene Mulronev Scholarship, worth \$5,000. Her master's project investigates the Irish diaspora's participation in the American Revolution.

"I hope this research is able to express my profound respect and admiration for the global Irish community," Diamond says.



UNDERGRADUATE

Cassiopeia Chaib and **Océane Hébert** are the inaugural winners of the Beverley Taugher Rozek Award, a \$5,000 entrance scholarship given to two outstanding, newly admitted students each year.

The award honours the legacy of Beverley Taugher Rozek, a pillar of Montreal's Irish community. A trailblazer and tireless volunteer, she became the first woman member of the St. Patrick's Society of Montreal in 1983 and its long-time



secretary. Her vision in creating the award was to inspire students to take pride in Irish heritage and to pursue Irish Studies at Concordia.

"This scholarship means so much to me. It encourages me to keep working hard and to make the most of this opportunity," says Hébert.

Chaib says, "I am immensely grateful for this award, as it has allowed me to pursue my studies when that opportunity might not have existed for me otherwise."



From left to right: Nora Fitzpatrick-O'Connell, Bernice Djaballah, Camille Rondeau-Montplaisir

Language learning in Ireland

This past summer, three undergraduates studied Irish in the Connemara Gaeltacht through the annual summer language program. They are grateful to the Ireland Canada University Foundation and the CISF for their unforgettable experience.

"In Connemara, not only was I immersed in the Irish language, but I also met some of the kindest and most welcoming people! This opportunity allowed me to see historical places I could only imagine in a classroom setting. I am so grateful," says **Bernice Djaballah**.

"It was a once-in-a-lifetime experience to be able to speak Irish in school, with classmates and on trips while also meeting so many amazing people," says **Nora Fitzpatrick-O'Connell**.

"Getting to experience an immersion in the language and culture of Connemara's Gaeltacht is impossible to define. Every wonderful landscape I saw, every amazing individual I met, it all made me thankful for this unique opportunity," says **Camille Rondeau-Montplaisir**.



From left to right: Corey Tosh, Trent Deschamps-Coinner, Charlotte Lovell

Gratitude from our student award recipients

Trent Deschamps-Coinner

Recipient of the Loyola Scholarship (\$2,000)

"The financial assistance I have received from the CISF has allowed me to dedicate myself to a double major in Irish Studies and Urban Planning, as well as to pursue student journalism."

Charlotte Lovell

Recipient of the Buddy O'Connor Scholarship (\$2,000)

"The financial help I've received means I only need to work part-time hours, which has ensured me the possibility of a double major in Irish Studies and English Literature. It has greatly reduced financial stress!"

Corey Tosh

Winner of the Fr. Shawn Gerard McCarthy Govenlock Scholarship (\$2,000)

"The Fr. Shawn Gerard McCarthy Govenlock scholarship greatly helped me to finance my semester abroad in Galway, where I was able to experience with my senses the very places I have studied."

Upcoming events



Tionól Cheoil Montreal: Hosting world-renowned Willie Clancy Summer School

April 10-11, 2026

Ireland's most celebrated traditional piper is commemorated through the Willie Clancy Summer School, founded in 1973 as a living memorial and now Europe's largest traditional music school. Held each July in the historic market town of Milford Malbay, it attracts thousands of musicians, singers and dancers from around the world to West Clare to learn from world-class scholars, performers, linguists and historians.

For over a decade, the School of Irish Studies has sent students and faculty to the Willie Clancy School. Now, in association with McGill University's Schulich School of Music, we are proud to host the Willie Clancy School's first-ever North American visit.

This tionól (visit) will include lectures, instrumental workshops (uilleann pipes, fiddle, flute and whistle) and a transatlantic concert showcasing Irish and Quebecois artists. Details will be published online early in 2026 and shared through the Siamsa Montreal School of Irish Music and Na Píobairí Uilleann, Quebec.



Na Mincéirí: Exploring Irish Traveller Culture

March 12, 2026, 6 – 7:30 p.m.

Father Thomas McEntee Reading Room
Henry F. Hall Building
1455 De Maisonneuve Blvd. W., Montreal

The School of Irish Studies is delighted to welcome **Oein DeBhairduin** for the annual **Ann Saddlemyer Lecture**. A writer, activist and educator, DeBhairduin is dedicated to preserving and revitalizing Irish Traveller stories, sayings and traditions. He is the award-winning author of *Why the Moon Travels*, as well as *Weave*, *The Slug and the Snail*, and *Twiggy Woman*.

He is curator of Traveller culture with the National Museum of Ireland, where he brings together community activism and cultural celebration, recalling old tales with fresh modern connections. Through this work, he aims to rekindle a shared sense of kinship between Ireland's Traveller and settled communities.

This event is free and open to the public. For details, visit concordia.ca/events and click on the event date.

Subscribe to our mailing list

Stay up-to-date on our lectures, events and special programs year-round. Email irishstudies@concordia.ca to join our mailing list.



School of Irish Studies course list for 2025-26

Open to students in our major, minor and certificate programs:

- Introduction to Irish Studies
- History of Ireland
- Irish Mythology and Folklore
- Celts to Tudors: History of Early and Mediaeval Ireland
- Contemporary Irish Theatre
- Irish Film Studies
- The Irish Short Story Tradition
- The Irish Literary Revival
- Introduction to Spoken Irish
- Highlights of Irish Literature
- The Irish in Canada
- Celtic Christianity
- The Great Irish Famine
- Cultural Geographies of the Irish Night
- The Politics of Northern Ireland
- Literature of Northern Ireland
- Irish Horror
- The Making of the Irish Landscape
- Norman and Tudor Ireland
- Faeries and the Supernatural in Irish Culture
- Intercultural Ireland: Film, Theatre and TV

Funding opportunities at the School of Irish Studies

Did you know that all students enrolled in our major are eligible for the Brian O'Neill Gallery Tuition Award? If Irish Studies majors keep their GPA above 3.0, the CISF will pay their tuition — up to \$3,000 annually. This funding can be combined with Concordia's Out-of-Province Awards, which help keep a Concordia education open to all Canadians amid Quebec tuition hikes.

Graduate students working on an Irish topic and with a faculty member from the School of Irish Studies are eligible for an Irish Studies Graduate Award of up to \$12,000 annually for master's students and up to \$20,000 annually for doctoral students.

These awards keep education accessible to our best and brightest. CISF's financial support means that promising young scholars can concentrate on their studies, leaving university with everything they need for future success — without a debilitating debt burden.

Full list of scholarship winners

Thanks to the generosity of our donors, we awarded **\$147,750 in student support last year**. Congratulations to all recipients:

Graduate students

Katherine Diamond, BA 25
Irene Mulroney Scholarship

Justine Vallée, BA 24
Irene Mulroney Scholarship

Paolo Gruni
Father Thomas Daniel McEntee Scholarship

Alice D. Tremea
Father Thomas Daniel McEntee Scholarship

Victoria Kelly
Bishop Michael F. Fallon Memorial Fellowship

Collin Bonnell
Irish Studies Graduate Award

Dean Farrell
Irish Studies Graduate Award

Kayla Fanning, BA 19, MA 21
Irish Studies Graduate Award

Giselle González García, MA 20
Irish Studies Graduate Award

Meaghan Landrigan-Buttle, BA 16, MA 22
Irish Studies Graduate Award

Simone Donders
Irish Studies Conference Award

Undergraduate students

Nora Fitzpatrick-O'Connell
Gus O'Gorman Scholarship and Timothy O'Connor Family Scholarship

Charlotte Lovell
Buddy O'Connor Scholarship

Katherine Diamond, BA 25
Henry Patrick Cullen Scholarship

Isabel Saldanha
Patrick Murray Scholarship

Trent Deschamps-Coinner
Loyola Scholarship

Bernice Djaballah
United Irish Societies Scholarship

Maeve Redmond
D'Arcy McGee Scholarship

Corey Tosh
Fr. Shaun Gerard McCarthy Govenlock Scholarship

Flavie Monnier
Matthew Hamilton Gault Scholarship

Skylar Aung-Thwin
Moiria Ann Snow Scholarship

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Arthur Meighan Scholarship

Maria Luisa Vélez Velásquez
Timothy Edward McIninch Scholarship

Véronique Berard
Brian O'Neill Gallery Tuition Award

Éloïse Birell
Brian O'Neill Gallery Tuition Award

Theo Cuddihy
Brian O'Neill Gallery Tuition Award

Matteo Helguero
Brian O'Neill Gallery Tuition Award

Nix Kouki, BEng 21
Brian O'Neill Gallery Tuition Award

Jessica Laturneau
Brian O'Neill Gallery Tuition Award

Declan Murphy
Brian O'Neill Gallery Tuition Award

Emily Paré
Brian O'Neill Gallery Tuition Award

Graham Quinn
Brian O'Neill Gallery Tuition Award

Camille Rondeau-Montplaisir
Brian O'Neill Gallery Tuition Award

Paula Russell
Brian O'Neill Gallery Tuition Award

Heartfelt thanks!

We gratefully acknowledge the generosity of those who donated to CISF over the past year, including:

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- Mr. Michael Shannon
- The Susan Langley Foundation
- Ms. Irene Woods

We appreciate your support to help our students. Thank you! To make your gift online, please visit concordia.ca/cisf.



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