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## Green Eggs and Ham with a Chaser of Green Beer: UD Professor Says Blarney and Reality Hard to Separate on St. Patrick's Day; University of Dayton Students Learn about Irish History

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# featuring UD

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## GREEN EGGS AND HAM WITH A CHASER OF GREEN BEER: UD PROFESSOR SAYS BLARNEY AND REALITY HARD TO SEPARATE ON ST. PATRICK'S DAY

Sorting out the myth from reality on St. Patrick's Day requires "divine inspiration," according to a University of Dayton professor who has studied the mythology surrounding St. Patrick's Day.

"For the 'real' Irish, the greening of America on March 17 is a strange spectacle to behold," said James P. Farrelly, chair of UD's English Department. "St. Patrick's Day is quite another feast when celebrated on the old sod since everyone there knows the 'true' story of Ireland's patron saint. They know he was a Briton by birth. They know he converted the pagan Celts with a magic stronger than any the Druids had ever conjured up. They believe he drove all the snakes out of Ireland. They believe he used the lowly shamrock to demonstrate the mystery of the Trinity. And they revere him for all his masterful deeds."

Whatever the truth behind the origins of St. Patrick's Day, March 17 provides a yearly opportunity for surrogate and "real" Irish to reflect on the heritage of Ireland, Farrelly contends.

For media interviews, contact Jim Farrelly at 229-3434.

## UNIVERSITY OF DAYTON STUDENTS LEARN ABOUT IRISH HISTORY

Every year Leroy Eid, of Centerville, gives a pep talk to students in his "History of Ireland and America" class: "The real Irish will show up for class on St. Patrick's Day."

That doesn't mean festivities on the popular Irish holiday are entirely out of order. "The Irish believe one's religion and joy of living shouldn't contradict one another," he said.

The class, which meets Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 2 to 2:50 p.m. in Miriam Hall 104, focuses on the history of Ireland and America from the potato famine through the present-day strife in northern Ireland. Approximately 50 students are enrolled in the course, which Eid has taught for eight years.

Eid, a frequent visitor to Ireland, is planning a one-month stay this summer to visit his wife's family. For media interviews, contact Leroy Eid at 229-2825 between 9 and 11 a.m. Monday, Wednesday or Friday.



*The University of Dayton*

For further information or assistance in scheduling interviews, contact Public Relations and University Communications, 229-3241.