

## Consulate General of Ireland, Atlanta

### June 2016 Newsletter

#### Irish News

On May 6th the [Dáil re-elected Mr Enda Kenny](#), T.D., as Taoiseach and [a new Government](#) was appointed on the same day. The Government of the 32nd Dáil is historic in that it is comprised of Fine Gael and several Independents and facilitated from opposition by Fianna Fáil.

Following the first Cabinet meeting in Government Buildings, the Taoiseach published [A Programme for Partnership Government](#). Budgetary reform, housing and rural connectivity are among the immediate priorities identified in the document. The [new Ministers of State](#) have since been announced, including Donegal's Joe McHugh as Ireland's second-ever [Minister of State for the Diaspora](#) and Overseas Development Aid.

On May 14th the Minister for Finance, Michael Noonan, said "The fact that Ireland's economic growth rate is the highest in the EU and that the public finances have been placed on a sustainable footing is a clear factor in [Moody's decision to upgrade Ireland's rating](#) to A3 with a positive outlook."

Enda Kenny visited Washington for a series of events to mark the 100th anniversary of the 1916 rising. He joined Vice President Joe Biden at the Kennedy Center on May 17th to formally open [Ireland 100](#). He also participated in major events at Capitol Hill.

Minister Harris announced agreement on a committee to develop a single long-term [vision for healthcare](#) and the direction of health policy in Ireland.

[Ireland has jumped to seventh](#) place in the latest World Competitiveness Yearbook rankings. The index of 61 countries, is compiled by the respected IMD business school in Lausanne, Switzerland.

Inward investment into Ireland continued at a steady pace. Amazon this week announced plans to create [500 new high tech jobs](#) in Dublin. Airbnb, which employs 445 staff in Ireland across 46 nationalities, opened its second office in Dublin as its [new international hub](#) and second largest office worldwide. Boston based Wayfair, Inc. one of the world's largest online destinations for home furnishings and décor, announced an [expansion of its European Operations Centre](#), which is to create about 160 new jobs in Ireland.

Our former President, Mary Robinson was appointed the UN Secretary-General's [Special Envoy](#) on El Niño and Climate.

[Major General Michael Beary](#) was appointed Head of Mission and Force Commander of the United Nations Interim Force Lebanon (UNIFIL). Major General Beary will command approximately 10,598 uniformed personnel from over 40 countries.

Delivering [the opening keynote address](#) at a Royal Irish Academy conference on International Affairs this week, Minister Flanagan said: "For us in Ireland, our identity and our values are integral to how we engage with the world." A few days earlier he and Minister of State McHugh announced [€5 million in Irish Aid funding](#) to Syria and Yemen in response to humanitarian crises in those countries.

The Taoiseach, Minister Flanagan and other Ministers have been actively participating in the [BREXIT debate](#), underlining Ireland's desire to see the UK remain part of the European Union.

Minister Flanagan welcomed the [Prince of Wales](#) and the Duchess of Cornwall to Donegal on May 25<sup>th</sup> for a one-day visit focused on cross-border cooperation and development.

On the same day, the Minister welcomed the [formation of the new Executive in Northern Ireland](#).

For Game of Thrones fans, [the fifth “Door of Thrones”](#) was revealed last week, in Frank Owens Bar in Limvady, County Derry.

There were major new announcements about the events leading up to the [Boston College vs Georgia Tech game](#) in Ireland. Muhtar Kent, chairman and CEO of The Coca-Cola Company, and David Abney, the CEO of UPS will participate in the meeting of the Boston College Chief Executives Club Global Forum to be held in Dublin on September 2, 2016. On the same day three high school football games will be played at Trinity College Dublin: Westminster School (Atlanta, Georgia) vs. Community School Naples (Naples, Florida); Marist School (Atlanta, Georgia) vs. Belen Jesuit (Miami, Florida); and St. Peters Prep (Jersey City, New Jersey) vs. Blessed Trinity (Atlanta, Georgia).

On May 28th Connacht won the Pro 12 Rugby Tournament in Edinburgh, leading to ecstatic celebrations by their fans.

### **Upcoming Events in the Southeast**

On June 1<sup>st</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> at 7pm, the Writers Space Radio Hour on AM 1690 hosted by Sandra Hughes will feature Parts 2 and 3 of a series on Irish Writers. June 1: *The Poet’s Rebellion*; June 5 and 8: *24 Grievances-James Joyce and Homer, Ulysses and The Odyssey*. Replays, including Part 1, *Irish Love Poems* (episode 15), are available 24/7 at the [AM 1690 website](#).

Atlanta Clan Na nGael presents its annual Peach Cup tournament this Saturday, June 4th at 10:00 a.m. at the [Georgia Soccer Park](#) for a day of men's and women's Gaelic football, hurling and camogie (and a kid's blitz!) against teams from across the Southeast. No entry fee. Celebrate afterwards with the players at the team’s sponsor bar, [Rira](#), starting at 7pm. For more information: [info@atlantagaa.com](mailto:info@atlantagaa.com).

In association with Charleston’s 2016 Spoleto Festival, the Celtic Arts Series sponsored by The Taylor Music Group will present multiple Celtic music performances evenings between June 1 and June 11. Tickets for each are \$16 and available [here](#) together with concert descriptions.

Dublin’s Gate Theatre makes its 10th appearance at the Spoleto Festival with a new production of Oscar Wilde’s comic masterpiece, [The Importance of Being Earnest](#), June 2-12 at Charleston’s Dock Street Theatre.

On June 16<sup>th</sup> The College of Charleston’s Irish and Irish American Studies program will present a lecture titled [“Was Sergeant Jasper Irish?”](#); 7pm at Addelstone Library, College of Charleston.

On June 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>, in celebration of [Bloomsday](#), Arís presents a staged reading of “Ulysses”, adapted by playwright and novelist Dermot Bolger from the novel by James Joyce “as a passport into the book that people who’ve never read a word of Joyce will enjoy.” [The Shakespeare Tavern Playhouse](#), 7:30 pm.

If there are Irish events you would like us to highlight in future newsletters or if you know others who would like to receive these newsletters [please let us know](#).

<https://www.dfa.ie/atlanta>

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