

Consulate General of Ireland

Newsletter for the U.S. Southeast

November 2018

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Great turnout by the Irish community for Atlanta's annual Pride Parade. Enjoy the video [here](#). (Pride photography courtesy of Virginia Varela, Atlanta Clan na nGael).

Message from the Consul General

A chairde,

October was a great month. The Consulate team marched with the Irish community for the first time in the Atlanta Pride Parade, affirming Ireland's commitment to LGBT+ rights. This was an important statement of values to which Ireland is committed.

We also had the privilege of bringing Ambassador Dan Mulhall to Raleigh, North Carolina where he delivered a Krasno lecture at UNC Chapel Hill on "Ireland, the European Union and Brexit: what now?", promoted commercial ties at Research Triangle Regional Partnership and Raleigh Chamber of Commerce events and met with U.S. Congressmen Price and Holding. He also called on Ireland's largest local company, ICON Plc, spoke with IQVIA and SAS about their investments in Ireland and met with NC State Chancellor Randy Woodson to encourage intensification of research and student exchange collaboration. The Irish community hosted the Ambassador for a reception and GAA training session and he joined Woodson for NC State's victory over Boston College.

To mark the 300th anniversary of the start of the Scots-Irish migration to America, the Consulate organised a lecture tour by renowned Scots-Irish historian Billy Kennedy, taking in several venues in Atlanta and Knoxville and the Tourism Ireland stand at the Stone Mountain Highland games.

We also celebrated the life and work of Frederick Douglass, including his time in Ireland, while kicking off a programme of events to mark his 200th birthday. The Consulate was pleased to co-host and participate in a panel discussion at Atlanta's historic Morehouse College. We now look forward to co-hosting with Emory University's Rose Library "Frederick Douglass: A Bicentennial Tribute", a major programme of community readings and remembrances, on November 27th. See details in the events section below, we hope to see you!

Shane Stephens, 2 November 2018

Parade Action

Evident enthusiasm of the Irish contingent participating in Atlanta's Pride Parade.



Below: It was 2019 St. Patrick's Day parades on the minds of Atlanta and South Florida Irish golfers, supporting their parade organizers in major annual fundraising golf tournaments.

Right: CG Stephens kicked off the 2018 Shamrock Open organized by Irish Network Atlanta at the prestigious Peachtree Golf Club.



Below: HC O'Flaherty (Center right) and [SFIACC](#) President Séan Murray (Center left) turned out for the Irish Golf Classic at Ft. Lauderdale Country Club.



Ambassador Mulhall visits the Triangle

Great visit with the ICON plc team in Raleigh. This global Irish company employs 5,000 people in the US where it has had operations since 1993.



Terrific support for the Ambassador's visit by Research Triangle Regional Partnership which hosted an area [tour and luncheon programme](#), arranged by Partnership Director Ryan Combs (far right, next to NC Honorary Consul John Young).



The Ambassador spoke to students at NC State and was kindly hosted by Chancellor Randy Woodson for the Wolfpack victory over Boston College. From this Consulate's point of view, the best team won.



Raleigh pharmaceutical company [IQVIA](#) employs more than 350 in Ireland.



With IDA's Emma Mitchell (R) for a great exchange on [SAS](#) and Ireland support of UN Sustainable Development Goals

Below: The Ambassador delivered the [Krasno lecture](#) at UNC on "Ireland, the European Union and Brexit: what now?", and was welcomed by UNC Librarian Elaine Westbrooks for a viewing of extracts from the library's lovely Irish collections.



Ambassador Mulhall enthusiastically joined UNC and Raleigh GAA players on the practice field.



Scots-Irish author Billy Kennedy visits Atlanta and Knoxville



Top & Center: Celebrating the 300th anniversary of the start of the Scots-Irish migration to America, Billy Kennedy recounts this history at the Consulate and at Atlanta's Trinity Presbyterian Church. Bottom: promoting Northern Ireland with Tourism Ireland, CG Stephens and UK CG Staunton at the Stone Mountain Highland Games.

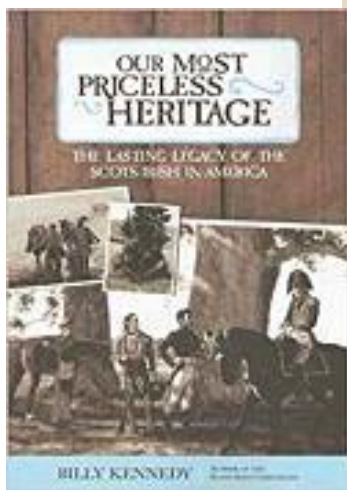


Delighted to support the visit to Atlanta of Julie Andrews (R), Director of the Linen Hall Library, Belfast. She explored potential collaborations with Emory University and Agnes Scott College Libraries.



Vice Consul Eilís O’Keeffe joins Billy Kennedy on a visit to **Knoxville, Tennessee** where they received terrific welcomes from an area of Southern Appalachia that became home to many early Scots-Irish settlers.

Below: Billy Kennedy with the Reverend William Pender of First Presbyterian Church in Knoxville, speaking on the 1718 Migration of the Scots-Irish and their lasting legacy.



Right: VC O’Keeffe hears from Knoxville Irish Society’s Chris King & John McCaul about their work to promote learning of the Irish language.



Celebrating the 200th birthday of Frederick Douglass

In August 1845, abolitionist and author Frederick Douglass arrived in Dublin. He intended to stay for just four days, having travelled to oversee the publication of the Narrative.

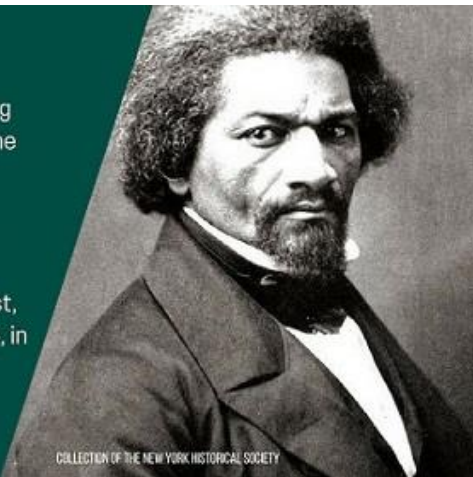
He remained for four months, delivering lectures across the country, before meeting the Irish liberator and abolitionist, Daniel O'Connell, on 29 September 1845, in Conciliation Hall in Dublin.

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An Roinn Gnóthaí
Eachtracha agus Trádála
Department of
Foreign Affairs and Trade

COLLECTION OF THE NEW YORK HISTORICAL SOCIETY



Great panel discussion at Morehouse College with Nettie Douglass, great great granddaughter of Frederick Douglass, Christine Kinealy, the editor of 'Frederick Douglass & Ireland: In His Own Words', Dr. Samuel Livingston, Director of African American Studies at Morehouse, and Haitian Morehouse graduate Jacques Pape. They reflected on Douglass' influence on the green islands of Ireland & Haiti. Morehouse President Dr. David Thomas (left below) provided a warm welcome.



Other Business and Culture around the Southeast



Above: CG Stephens joined the Atlanta Branch of the American Jewish Committee for consultations with members and a panel on Trade, Immigration, Relations with the US and Extremism.

Engaging first visit to Kennesaw State University – their Museum of History and Holocaust Education, and below with President Pamela Whitten and Dr. Josh Azriel's Global Communications class.





[Wexford-Savannah Tradebridge](#) business delegation from County Wexford, hosted by World Trade Center Savannah

Ireland's Honorary Consul in Miami, Ian O'Flaherty, below with Miami City Manager Emilio Gonzalez, attends a reception programme for the Miami Consular Corps headlined by Miami Mayor Francis Suarez.



CG Stephens, with Irish Chamber of Atlanta President Bill Duffy, was pleased to introduce and receive the biography 'Play it Again Sam' from former Atlanta Mayor Sam Massell at the Chamber's luncheon. The Mayor recalled selling Coca-Cola & Guinness on the street, leading the St Patrick's Day Parade and working hard for the City.





The Consulate welcomed Georgia House Representative Michael Caldwell for a visit to the Consulate

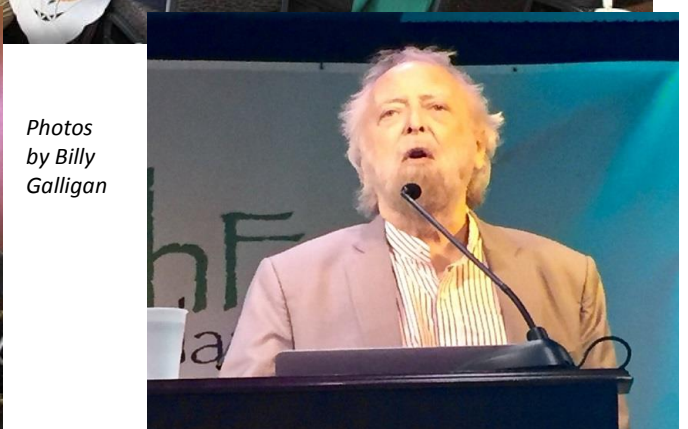


Vice Consul Eilís O’Keeffe participated in a discussion with Peri Lynne Johnson of the International Energy Agency hosted by [ACIR](#) on peaceful use of nuclear technology and non-proliferation of nuclear weapons.

Skye Haughten, (top row, 2nd from right), native of Monkstown, County Cork and a resident of Orlando, Florida since 2016 is a key player and one of two US-based players on Ireland’s [first ever U16s National Volleyball team](#). The team are traveling to the Faroe Islands in January 2019 to compete for the first time in a Confederation of European Volleyball Tournament against the hosts, Iceland, Norway, Sweden, Finland and Denmark.



IrishFest Atlanta 2018



Photos by Billy Galligan



Irish News

[Michael D Higgins](#) was elected for a second 7-year term as President of Ireland, with a total of 822,566 votes (55.8%).

The White House has officially nominated [Edward Crawford](#) to become the next US Ambassador to Ireland.

Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport, Shane Ross T.D. and Sport Ireland CEO John Treacy visited the White House this week for an international [summit on doping in sport](#).

On October 17th, Tánaiste and Minister for Justice and Equality Simon Coveney welcomed in guests to mark 100 years since the birth in Ireland of [Chaim Herzog](#), the sixth President of Israel. Days later, he offered deep condolences to those impacted by the tragedy at Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh, saying “we stand together with all decent thinking people against this kind of hatred and intolerance.”

While attending the Irish Network USA 6th Annual National Conference in New Orleans, Ambassador Dan Mulhall [interviewed with WWLTV](#) on the contribution of Irish immigrants to America & the dynamic two-way economic ties between Ireland & the US today. The theme is also covered in his latest [blog](#) post.

The Ambassador was pleased to meet and pay tribute to former Coca-Cola CEO Neville Isdell for the work he has done in founding [Dublin's EPIC Museum](#) which tells the story of Irish emigration, and for his achievements as chair of America's World Wildlife Foundation.

The Government's [Budget 2019](#) will deliver a 25% increase in infrastructure investment, funding for increased staffing across state agencies and key Irish embassies (including new Consulates in Los Angeles and Vancouver), and the first balanced budget in a decade. Read the Tánaiste's [remarks](#) to the Dáil on the Budget's implications for the work of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

As part of the Government's plan to drive balanced regional economic development under Project Ireland 2040, the [Technological University of Dublin](#), Ireland's soon to be largest university and first ever technological university, will launch on January 1, 2019 upon dissolution of the Dublin Institute of Technology, Institute of Technology Blanchardstown and Institute of Technology Tallaght.

Noting the new Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Special Report on the Impacts of Global Warming of 1.5°, the Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment, Denis Naughten, [outlined Ireland's goals](#) for climate action and adaptation.

Minister Michael D'Arcy, as Minister of State for Financial Services and Insurance, launched a [public consultation process](#) to inform the development of a new strategy for the International Financial Services (IFS) sector to drive the further growth and development of the IFS sector in Ireland.

Tánaiste Coveney's BBC interview on Brexit is essential listening; [hear it here](#) (8.10-8.20).

Enterprise Ireland plans to open [a new US office](#), reflecting the value of investment by Irish companies in the US which jumped by 72% in 2017. Ireland is the 9th largest source of foreign direct investment to the US.

The Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Michael **Creed** TD, congratulated Irish applicants and their partners in the US and Northern Ireland that were recently [selected for project funding](#) from the USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture call for proposals under the [US-Ireland Research and Development Partnership Programme](#).

Georgia Agriculture Commissioner, Gary Black, met with Consul General Stephens and Ireland's Agriculture and Food Counsellor, Dale Crammond, to mark the second leg of a Georgia-Ireland reciprocal exchange of

Government veterinary experts. We are delighted to see agricultural cooperation intensifying between Ireland and Georgia.

The [Research Triangle Regional Partnership](#), which this month hosted Ambassador Dan Mullhall in North Carolina, will lead a high level state and academic delegation to Ireland next week to explore collaborative opportunities in life sciences, agriculture technology and innovation.

The Minister of State for Equality, David Stanton, has launched a Public Consultation on the [National LGBTI Inclusion Strategy](#) to improve the lives of the LGBTI community in Ireland. The overall aim of this strategy is to target discrimination, promote inclusion, and improve quality of life and wellbeing for LGBTI people.

The 2020 Aer Lingus College Football Game will take place in Dublin's Aviva Stadium on August, 29th, 2020 between Notre Dame and Navy. The Game is expected to draw 35,000 Irish American fans. Official information, travel packages and tickets available [here](#).

Upcoming Events in the Southeast

Professor Emeritus at Emory University and distinguished W.B. Yeats scholar, Dr. Jim Flannery, will deliver six lectures on Yeats' plays on Sundays November 4 through December 9 (except Nov 25) at 10am, Trinity Presbyterian Church, Atlanta. Open to the public.

Atlanta's Aris Theatre will present [Arís Remembers, 1918-2018](#): *Commemorating the Anniversary of the End of World War I*", with varying performances running November 2-November 18, 7 Stages Theatre Back Stage. Consul General Stephens will speak on opening night.

Emory Professor Geraldine Higgins will give a public lecture on November 7th at 6pm at the Teaching and Learning Studio of the Rose Library at Emory about her acclaimed exhibition, Seamus Heaney: Listen Now Again, in Dublin at the National Library of Ireland in the Bank of Ireland Cultural and Heritage Centre. A reception will follow the presentation. See also the recent [New York Times article](#) on the exhibition.

The [Paul Brock Band](#) will perform at [St. Paul United Methodist Church](#) in Grant Park, Atlanta, on November 9 at 7:30 p.m.

[Irish fiddler Gerry O'Connor](#) and singer/guitarist Kevin McElroy will perform in concert at Hungry Monk Music in Charleston on November 10th at 7:30pm.

Knoxville Irish Society (KIS) invites you to their next monthly [social gathering](#) on November 10th, 3:00 - 5:00pm, at 3131 Morris Ave, with traditional Irish tea, music, snacks & camaraderie. Contact: info@knoxvilleirish.com.

This year's Atlanta Clan na nGael Golf Classic will take place at The Golf Club at Bradshaw Farms in Woodstock on November 10th at 12pm. Information and registration [here](#).

On November 14th, the Tower Club's Internationals Exchange and the Greater Fort Lauderdale Sister Cities, in cooperation with the South Florida Irish American Chamber of Commerce, the Greater Fort Lauderdale Chamber of Commerce and the Greater Fort Lauderdale Alliance present a program on Ireland, focused on Irish culture and arts in South Florida, 6:00-8:00. Register [here](#).

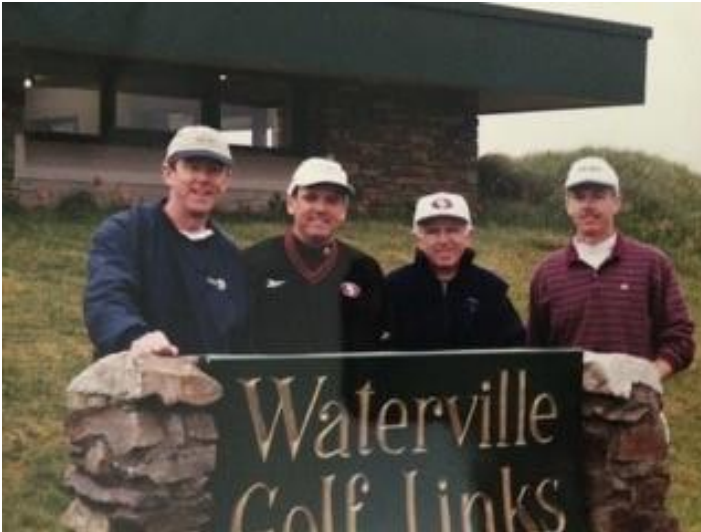
The Consulate General and the Stuart A. Rose Library at Emory University are delighted to present *Frederick Douglass: A Bicentennial Tribute*, November 27th, with a reception, exhibit and program of readings and remembrances, 6:00-9:00pm at Emory. The event celebrates the 200th birthday of abolitionist, author, statesman, and orator Frederick Douglass with live readings of selections from his speeches, editorials, and letters, including from his time overseas. Presenters will include Douglass descendant Kenneth B Morris and the actor Louis Gossett, Jr. The event is open to the public but [registration is required](#).

Be sure to send in your public event notices to carol.jordan@dfa.ie.

Diaspora Heritage Series

Bill Duffy

Editor's Note: Bill Duffy is President of the Irish Chamber of Atlanta and CEO of The Aspire Group, a sports marketing and management company based in Atlanta.



Bill Duffy with his father, Bill (second & third from left) and two brothers, hitting the links in the home country

My family roots in Ireland run deep and I am proud of my dual citizenship, American and Irish.

My grandmother, Brigid Sweeney, was a first-generation immigrant, and my most recent relative to be abroad. Brigid was born in 1903, to Patrick Sweeney and Annie Roarty. Both of Brigid's parents hailed from the small village of Meencorwick in County Donegal. Around the age of 23, my grandmother emigrated to New York and passed through Ellis Island on her own. Shortly after her arrival, she met Anthony Greene, who was born in Bayonne, New Jersey but was raised by his parents Patrick and Sarah on Cruit Island, Donegal.

Brigid and Anthony were married in 1927 and settled in Brooklyn with their children Anthony and my mother, Anne. My Grandfather (Papa) worked as a laborer in New York City including working on the Brooklyn Battery and Lincoln Tunnels. Bridget (Nana, formerly Brigid) worked as a dietician in Brooklyn hospitals.

My father, Bill, can also trace his entire lineage back to Ireland. Each of my father's grandparents emigrated to the United States from Ireland in the late 19th century and took residence in and around New York City. Frank Brannigan, my paternal great grandfather, was born in County Monaghan and arrived in the United States in 1890, at age 22. He married Anna Gaynor, an immigrant from Donegal, in 1895 and later had three children. Frank spent decades working as a night watchman at the New York docks. His daughter Anna, an operator for AT&T, married Thomas Duffy, a milkman, and had my father William in 1921. Frank Brannigan's son, Frank Jr., grew to be a decorated Lieutenant with the FDNY.

My father, a World War II navigator of B-26's who completed 67 missions in the European Theater while earning two Purple Hearts, and my Mom, met in Brooklyn and were married for 55 years before Mom passed away in 2003. They had five children and 9 grandchildren. My Dad turned 97 on October 16 of this year.

I am the proud husband of Cathy (37 Years of Adventure) and daughters Erin (husband Tim) and Caitlin. I have been blessed with a career in sports that has lasted 30 years, and which leads me to conclude with if you love what you, do you won't work a day in your life.

To submit your story, contact [Kevin Conboy](#).