

Consulate General of Ireland

Newsletter for the U.S. Southeast

September 2018

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Message from the Consul General

A chairde,

I wish to introduce you to Eilís O'Keeffe, Ireland's first Vice Consul in Atlanta. Ms O'Keeffe is from Dungarvan, County Waterford and studied Law with French at University College Cork and University of Oxford. She has a nice turn of phrase *as Gaeilge* and has come to us straight from three years working in support of the Good Friday Agreement in the Ireland, UK and Americans Division of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade in Dublin.

Ms O'Keeffe's appointment will double Ireland's diplomatic team for the Southeast U.S. It is part of the implementation of '[Global Ireland – Ireland's Global Footprint to 2025](#)', the Government's initiative to double the scope and impact of Ireland's global footprint in the period to 2025. In these parts, this policy has also seen the diplomatic team at our Consulate General in Austin, where Mr Paul Breen has been appointed as Ireland's first Vice Consul for Texas and the Southwest. On the ground, we are also seeing a significant up-scaling of engagement by Enterprise Ireland & IDA Ireland in the Southeast.

Our Vice Consul's expertise will come in handy for a visit to Atlanta from Northern Ireland this month. In partnership with the Oxford College of Emory University, the Northern Ireland Bureau, Washington, and the UK Consulate General, Atlanta, we will welcome Mr Colum Eastwood, leader of the Social Democratic and Labour Party, Mr Mike Nesbitt, former leader of the Ulster Unionist Party, and Mr Stephen Farry, Deputy Leader of the Alliance Party for a programme to mark the 20th Anniversary of the Good Friday Agreement. They will participate in a public panel discussion on September 18th at the Oxford College. They will be following in the footsteps of John Hume in several respects so I am glad that a screening of *John Hume in America* will kick off their discussion.

Shane Stephens September 4th, 2018

The King Center's Beloved Community International Expo



The Irish stand was a hub of activity.

Below, Karl Drake and Drake School dancers exhibit true international collaboration!



Above: Beautiful Irish song from Olivia Bradley



Below: Kerrygold and King O'Sullivan dancers were a hit!





Left: a few of the local Irish community's "rotating staff" who turned out to make Ireland's stand best of the best!

The Consulate team greatly valued the opportunity to participate in the Beloved Community International Expo at the King Center alongside countries from around the globe. Ireland punched above its weight at this event thanks to the support of Atlanta's Irish community. We taught huge numbers of people a 'cúpla focal', promoted Atlanta's hurling and Gaelic football scene and offered visitors to our stand a flavour of the food and welcome to be had on a visit to Ireland. Live performances of Irish dance, music and song were also highlights of the day on the main stage and Auburn Avenue.

It was a particular privilege for Consul General Stephens to meet Christine King Farris, sister of Martin Luther King, Jr, at the Irish stand. They had a moment to discuss her brother's influence on John Hume and the Good Friday Agreement.





Business, Academics and Culture in Orlando, Florida

Great session in Orlando on 'Ireland & Florida in the Transatlantic Partnership' hosted by the Orlando Economic Partnership, Enterprise Florida, and the Central Florida International Trade Office



Below left: At the University of Central Florida (UCF) with Ireland's Honorary Consul in Orlando, Terry Delahunty, for an uplifting chat with President Dale Whittaker on music, talent development & Ireland's engagement with UCF. **Right:** with Dr. Necati Catbas, UCF lead for research with University College Dublin & Queen's University Belfast on bridge health monitoring using cameras & computer vision methods funded by the US-Ireland Partnership Programme.



Good to hear from Orlando Mayor Buddy Dyer that we could have a trade mission to Ireland in the works!



Rounding out his trip to Orlando, CG Stephens was delighted to catch a preview performance by The Academy Dancers from Ballyfermot, Dublin



South Carolina



After the summer break, CG Stephens caught up with UK CG Andrew Staunton, Canadian CG Nadia Theodore and Republic of Korea CG Young-jun Kim at a trade and investment reception organized by South Carolina's Commerce Department.

In Columbia, CG Stephens enjoyed the opportunity to discuss Irish investment in South Carolina with Governor Henry McMaster.



One such investor in SC is Irish firm [Tirecheck](#) - great briefing from Jonathan Brennan on his company's fleet and tire management technology and plans for growth.

Always a pleasure to catch up with Jim Lawracy, President of the South Carolina Board of the Ancient order of Hibernians



Back in Atlanta...

Good discussion on FinTech and Cybersecurity with US Representative Karen Handel and Sysnet General Manager John Browne



Constructive conversation with Marva Lewis, Chief of Staff for Atlanta Mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms, on how the City of Atlanta and Ireland can share best practices and address affordable housing issues together

Lovely evening at the home of Georgia State Professor Marilyn Richtarik for the kick-off of the 2018-19 season for the Atlanta Irish Studies Group



And summer fun...



Cadets from the Gaelic Club at Marion Military Institute in Alabama enjoy a break from their summer Irish language studies in Donegal. Read more in the [Irish Independent](#) or listen to a profile on their visit on [BBC News](#).



Congratulations to the Atlanta Clan na nGael GAA team, 2018 national Junior C Football champions!



Tampa Bay GAA welcomed a surprise visit from Jonathan O'Callaghan (2-time All-Ireland medalist with Cork senior hurlers) who provided the team with pointers in exchange for his very own Tampa jersey.



South Florida Emeralds march in Key Biscayne's 4th of July Parade

Irish Network Atlanta didn't let a little rain get in the way of a great summer social for the Irish community.



Irish News

The Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade, Simon Coveney, T.D. has welcomed President Trump's planned visit to Ireland in November. He said that "The US President is always welcome in Ireland. Our two countries have such strong historic, economic, cultural and family ties. Maintaining those connections is always a top priority."

The Tánaiste also reacted to the US decision to end all funding to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA). He stated that "I believe this step is both heartless and dangerous, and will impact negatively on the Middle East region."

Read the [Tánaiste's recent speech](#) to the German Ambassadors Conference.

Irish Ambassador to the US, Dan Mulhall, said he was honoured to represent Ireland at the [funeral of John McCain](#), noting "The senator was a great ally and friend of Ireland both on immigration reform and on the NI peace process." The Irish ballad "Danny Boy" was sung at the funeral.

On August 25th [Taoiseach Leo Varadkar](#) welcomed [Pope Francis](#) to Ireland. See [photos of the Pope's visit](#), his [visit schedule](#), and [other background information](#).

Eoghan Murphy, Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government issued a [Presidential Election Order](#) setting out key dates in connection with the forthcoming Presidential election, with 26 September as the last day for receipt of nominations.

In early July in New York, the Taoiseach, accompanied by the Tánaiste, officially launched [Ireland's campaign for a seat on the UN Security Council](#) for the 2021-2022 term. This bid is a core element of the Government's Global Ireland 2025 strategy to double the scale and impact of Ireland's international presence.

[The President](#), [the Taoiseach](#) and the Tánaiste were among those from Ireland who paid tribute to former UN Secretary Kofi Annan as an advocate for peace and multilateralism following his recent passing.

Negotiations between the EU and the UK for an agreed Brexit are ongoing. In July, the Government signed off on a number of [preparedness measures](#) focused on East-West trade.

President Trump and the President of the European Commission met in Washington on July 27th and issued an important [joint statement](#). This addressed starting a new phase in the relationship between the U.S. and the EU, a "phase of close friendship, of strong trade relations in which both of us will win, of working better together for global security and prosperity, and of fighting jointly against terrorism."

This has been a great summer for Irish sporting achievements. Our [Women's Hockey Team](#) came second in the World Cup. Five Irish athletes, Rhys McClenaghan, the O'Donovan brothers, Thomas Barr and Shane Ryan, brought home medals from the [European Championships](#). The future of Irish sports is also looking strong. The Ireland women's [4x100m relay team](#) (Molly Scott, Gina Akpe-Moses, Ciara Neville and Patience Jumbo-Gula) won silver at the World U-20 Championships in Finland in July.

The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade launched its first '[Annual Report on Support for the Irish Abroad](#),' which details the range and depth of Government support for global Irish communities.

The US Citizens and Immigration Services has changed its US [Unlawful Presence](#) policy for students and exchange visitors with J, F or M visas who fail to maintain their lawful status.

[The Irish economy grew 7.2% in GDP terms](#) in 2017, making Ireland the fastest growing economy in the EU in that year. Labour Force Survey data also [shows the highest ever level of employment in Ireland](#). Official data further indicated [an increase of 7.8% in overseas visits](#) to Ireland for the first seven months of 2018 as compared to the same period in 2017.

Ministers Humphreys and Breen welcomed the signing of the [Economic Partnership Agreement](#) between the EU and Japan, the biggest and most advanced bilateral trade deal ever negotiated by the EU which will create the largest free trade zone ever.

At the [official opening of Avolon's new global headquarters](#) in Dublin the Taoiseach remarked "Travelling the world, I know when looking to the skies that 4 out of every 10 aircraft are owned or managed from Ireland." Worth over €4.1bn to the Irish economy, [Ireland's aerospace and aviation industry](#) is soaring to new heights.

A "cheesy" new joint venture is planned between Irish company [Glanbia Nutritionals](#), which has operations in Florida, and US-based Dairy Farmers of America and Select Milk Producers, Inc, investing \$470 million in a cheese & whey production facility with 250 US jobs in Johns, Michigan.

September 21st is the deadline for nominations for Science Foundation Ireland's 2019 [St. Patrick's Day Science Medal](#) – which goes to US-based scientists with an Irish connection.

Registration is open for the Florida Chamber Business Development and [Trade Mission to Ireland](#) and the UK Dec 3-7.

[Conde Nast Traveler](#) has ranked 3 Irish cities - Dublin, Cork and Galway - among the top 10 friendliest cities in the world!

Upcoming Events in the Southeast

Come join Consul General Stephens and friends on September 16 to learn how you can represent Ireland in the Atlanta Pride Parade on October 14 (save the date!). [Planning meeting](#) at Fado Irish Pub Midtown, 6:00-7:30pm.

Raleigh GAA member and musician, Larre Reeves, invites you to join his periodic Irish Language Nights for all levels, approximately every other Thursday. The next gatherings will be September 13th and 27th at Trá Lí in Morrisville, NC at 8pm. Contact [Larre Reeves](#) for more information.

Knoxville Irish Society (KIS) invites you to their next monthly [Eat-&-Greet](#) on September 8, 3:00 - 5:00pm, at 3131 Morris Ave, with traditional Irish tea, music, snacks and camaraderie. Contact: info@knoxvilleirish.com

Do not miss the world class Irish team at [FEI World Equestrian Games™](#), which will be held from September 11-23 at the Tryon International Equestrian Center in Mill Spring, North Carolina. [Ireland](#) will send a total of 16 horses and riders to the Games, to compete in Show Jumping, Eventing, Dressage, Reining and Endurance. The Irish horses will form part of the largest commercial airlift of horses in history. Our Show Jumping team will include Shane Breen with Ipswich Van De Wolfsakker, Cian O'Connor with Good Luck, Paul O'Shea with Machu Picchu and Shane Sweetnam with Chaqui Z. The first reserve will be Michael Duffy with EFS Top Contender. Kildare musician Mick Konstantin has created a [song for the team!](#) Consul General Stephens and Honorary Consul John Young will travel to Tryon to support. We hope you can join them.

On Saturday, September 15th, the South Florida Emerald Society will host its "Halfway to St. Patrick's Day- Pedestrian Pub Crawl", 5:30-10:30pm in South Miami, starting at Buffalo Wild Wings. Information and RSVP (ASAP): info@stpatrickssf@gmail.com or Annie Sorgie, 305-283-3182.

On September 18, Emory University's Oxford campus in Oxford, Georgia will host three senior politicians from Northern Ireland to mark the 20th anniversary of the Good Friday Agreement. The public is invited to a special screening of *John Hume in America* and panel discussion. The visitors will be Colum Eastwood, the leader of the Social Democratic and Labour Party, Mike Nesbitt, the former leader of the Ulster Unionist Party and Stephen Farry, the Deputy Leader of the Alliance Party.

Consul General Stephens will deliver two lectures in Tampa, Florida on September 19th: i) 2pm at the University of South Florida, speaking on *Ireland and America: Trans-Atlantic Connections Then & Now*; RSVP bmarks@usf.edu or 813-974-4433; and ii) 7pm at the University of Tampa on *Ireland and its European Future*, contact: University of Tampa [International Programs Office](#).

Charlotte Irish Connection and the Charlotte GAA will host the [Charlotte Irish Fest](#) on September 22nd, a fundraiser for building an American-Irish Cultural Center. Family friendly food, music and dancing 1:00-11:00pm at Tyber Creek Pub, 1933 South Blvd, Charlotte.

On September 24, the English Department at Georgia State University will host a lecture by University of Alabama Prof James McNaughton at 4pm, [speaking on "Samuel Beckett and the Politics of Aftermath: Endgame and Famine Politics"](#) in the Troy Moore Library, 25 Park Place, 23rd floor. Free & open to the public.

Irish bluegrass band [Jigjam](#) will perform in the International Bluegrass Music Association [World of Bluegrass](#) in Raleigh, NC September 25-29, with later evening appearances at [The Hibernian Pub](#).

On September 30, the Hibernian Benevolent Society of Atlanta hosts its lovely annual [Sunday in the Park at Oakland Cemetery](#), with Irish dancers and music and a wreath laying at the cemetery's Irish burial plot.

The prestigious annual [Shamrock Open Golf Tournament](#) will take place on October 8th at the Peachtree Golf Club. Space for one team of four to participate has just opened up due to a late cancellation. For further information please contact the Consulate. The Shamrock Open is the fundraiser for the Atlanta St Patrick's Day Parade. It also supports the work of the St. Baldrick's Foundation to fight childhood cancer.

On October 14, the Consulate General, members of the Irish community and friends will participate as an Irish block in the Atlanta Pride Parade, see Sept 16 planning meeting information above.

Author Billy Kennedy will speak on the "300th anniversary of the early movement of the Scots-Irish to America, their lasting legacy", in Knoxville on October 17th from 6:30-7:30pm at First Presbyterian Church, 620 State Street, and at a number of venues in Atlanta, including at the Stone Mountain Highland Games and at the Consulate General of Ireland on October 22nd.

Be sure to stop by the Tourism Ireland stand at the 46th Annual Stone Mountain Highland Games, October 19-21.

On October 26-27 [IrishFest Atlanta](#) will celebrate the best of Traditional Irish Music, Dance, and Culture. This year's headline guest acts will include Téada, The Green Fields of America and the Pride of Moyvane Ceili Band in a lively ceili (dance). Other highlights will include a lecture by renowned Irish academic Mick Moloney of NYU on "Two Roads Diverged: A talk of Irish & Black Contributions to American Music and Dance" and the annual "Tea with the Consul General Event". The action will all take place at the DoubleTree by Hilton, 4386 Chamblee Dunwoody Road. Tickets and schedule at the link above.

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

The next edition of our Heritage Series follows...

Sligo Lady and Offaly Gentleman Meet in Chicago and Create a Family That Makes Beautiful Music Together

By Teresa M. Finley

Editor's Note: Teresa is a former SVP of UPS and serves as a director for the Fernbank Museum of Natural History, Atlanta, The Woodruff Arts Center, Atlanta, and The Annie E. Casey Foundation; is chair of Irish Traditions Atlanta; and is the founder of IrishFest Atlanta. Her story here has been severely edited for length, but will be published soon in full length (as will others in this series) on the website of EPIC Museum in Dublin.

A red haired young woman at the young age of 19 left her small town of Gurteen, County Sligo, Ireland on July 23rd, 1955 to meet her older sister and find employment in the big city of Chicago. If you saw the movie Brooklyn, you will know some of the story already. She did not come on the boat, but flew across the ocean from Shannon Airport to Detroit and eventually arrived in Chicago. She traveled with one brown suitcase that contained all the belongings she could take with her. Included was a bottle of Red Breast Cognac for her sponsor, Marian Callaghan, and the first machine knit sweater her cousin Lizzie Nicholson made for her. A black suit was purchased from a secondhand shop for the trip, but was returned the next day so that her own mother could have a little more in her pocket as things were difficult in Ireland at the time. The jobs that were available, mostly farm jobs, went to men. There was very little opportunity for women, which led to the difficult decision her older sister made to move to Chicago to find work.

After receiving letters from her older sister explaining how lonely it was in Chicago, she decided to make the long trip to the U.S. Her plan was to stay for 5 years and then return home to Gurteen as she was "promised" to a man who owned and farmed land near her homestead.

She took her first job in Chicago with U.S. Steel as a file clerk. It was on a bus that transported employees of U.S. Steel to the "L" where she met her future husband. She credits another Irish man, Ben Cummins, for setting up the meeting. She played "hard to get at first," walking by the seat on the bus that was so obviously being saved for her!



They found their way into the social circles of the Irish in Chicago, attending the dances held at the Regeant, and Carpenter's Hall where Irish Bands played waltzes, swing, and traditional Irish music for a céilí dance...with The Siege of Ennis being a favorite. It was their mutual love for Irish music and dancing that ultimately brought them together.

He had the "Irish gift of the gab"! As he rang every Tuesday night and talked for hours. He would talk to whomever got on the phone first and the sisters often wondered who he was really interested in.

On November 20, 1956 Mary Elizabeth Mulligan (Betty) turned 21. On this day, Joseph Patrick Dowling (Joe) proposed to Betty. Joe emigrated in 1953 coming from Tullamore, County Offaly Ireland via boat to Newfoundland and then to Toronto, Canada where he worked for a year. In 1954 he took the train to Chicago and joined his brothers - Mike and Christy - who had left Ireland before him.

Betty and Joe were married on September 12, 1959 after an appropriate year in mourning was completed for Betty's mother, who passed away that Betty and Joe became engaged. Betty and Joe had 4 children; Martin William, Teresa Mary (yours truly), Christina Brigid and Joseph Jude (Jode).

But this is but the beginning of a story that features family and music. For the rest of the story, please email kevinpatrickconboy@gmail.com, or go to the EPIC Museum website. But you should know that one of Betty and Joe's grandsons, Teresa's son Patrick Finley, has carried on the family tradition as a two-time All-Ireland champion, first place finisher, in the Fleadh Cheoil na hEireann (All-Ireland music competition) for Under 18 Fiddle, and Fiddle Slow Air. And he recently participated in the over 18 competition as well!