

# Consulate General of Ireland

## Newsletter for the U.S. Southeast

December 2016

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### Contact Us:

[atlantacg@dfa.ie](mailto:atlantacg@dfa.ie)

Consulate General of Ireland  
Monarch Plaza, Suite 260,  
3414 Peachtree Road NE  
Atlanta, GA 30326  
**Tel:** +1-404-554-4980  
**Fax:** +1-678-235-2201

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Congratulations to the South Florida Irish American Chamber of Commerce on their recent launch. Just in time for the new Aer Lingus Dublin-Miami route in 2017!

### Message from the Consul General

Ireland's relationship with South Florida is intensifying fast. On November 10<sup>th</sup> a new dynamic [South Florida Irish American Chamber of Commerce](#) was launched, and on November 15<sup>th</sup> Aer Lingus announced a new direct Dublin-Miami route beginning in September 2017.

The Taoiseach sent a message to the South Florida Irish American Chamber of Commerce to congratulate them on their establishment. The message was read aloud by the President of the new chamber, Sean Murray, to the delight of those gathered for the launch reception. Fort Lauderdale Mayor Jack Seiler was keynote speaker at the event.

The [new Aer Lingus route](#) will see three flights per week starting at €299. Building on the impact of Aer Lingus's long established Dublin-Orlando route, this new connection will bring the people of Ireland and Florida closer than ever and present exciting new opportunities for commerce.

South Florida will be keeping the Consulate General of Ireland busy in the months and years ahead. *We are looking forward to the challenge.*

*Shane Stephens*

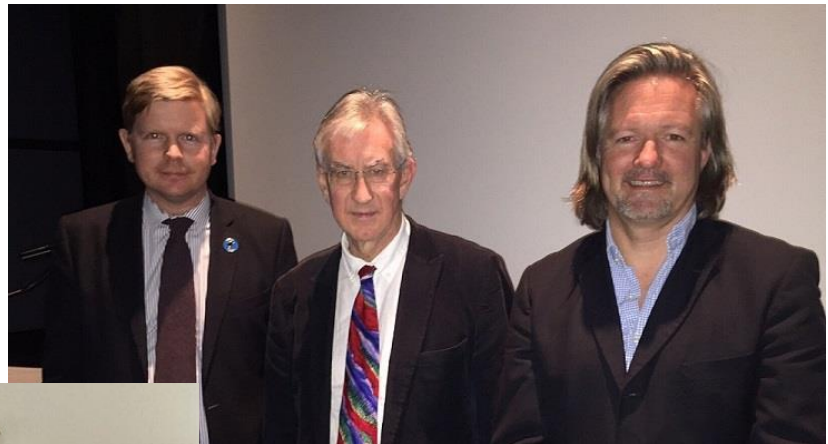
## Irish Business and Culture Around the Southeast



With support from the Consulate, Irish actor Barry McGovern headlined events at Emory University, the University of Georgia, and Georgia Southern University celebrating the launch of the final volume of [\*The Letters of Samuel Beckett\*](#). For many years, this project has been based in Atlanta at Emory.

A memorable evening of readings intertwined with chamber music at Emory University

Consul General Stephens and Barry McGovern with Professor Nicholas Allen at the University of Georgia's Willson Center for Humanities and Arts.



At the Dublin launch of the final volume of The Letters of Samuel Beckett, Minister Flanagan [commended](#) editors Martha Dow Fehsenfeld and Lois More Overbeck for bringing this significant work to fruition and welcomed them to Iveagh House with Beckett family members & Barry McGovern.





Consul General Stephens delivered an upbeat message on Ireland, the EU and Brexit at the University of Georgia's Dean Rusk International Law Center. [See article on his remarks](#)



The Consul General visited with Ashlea Harris, US operations director for Irish firm Voxpro, at Voxpro's impressive and rapidly expanding operation in Athens, Georgia.

An impromptu encounter with Athens Mayor Nancy Denson provided opportunity to discuss Voxpro's new operation.





“Shakespeare at Emory” hosted the distinguished panel of Trinity College Dublin’s Prof. Nicholas Grene, filmmaker Tom Magill, and Dr. Ayanna Thompson of George Washington University for an exploration of Shakespeare’s place in the African American arts tradition and in modern Ireland.

Tom Magill, artistic director of the [Educational Shakespeare Company](#) is working on *Prospero’s Prison*, a modern adaptation of Shakespeare’s *The Tempest*, which will use a cross-community group of ex-prisoners from Northern Ireland as its cast.

Great discussion on early childhood education in the US and Ireland at the Consulate with visiting Fulbright Scholar Rita Melia.







John Doyle, Liz Carroll and Atlanta Junior Céilí Band entertain the crowd at Atlanta's 4<sup>th</sup> annual **IrishFest** sponsored by Irish Traditions Atlanta.



Consul General Shane Stephens and Irish Network Atlanta's Brian Boland congratulate Atlanta Clan na nGael's chairperson, Ray Tracey, at their inaugural Hall of Fame and annual player award ceremony sponsored by Irish Network Atlanta.

Beautiful baked goods prepared for Hibernian Benevolent Society of Atlanta's lunch with the Consul General where he spoke on Ireland's future in Europe and the Georgia Tech game in Dublin.



## Irish News

On November 9<sup>th</sup>, the Taoiseach [issued a statement](#) to congratulate Donald Trump on his election as the 45th President of the United States and, during a 10 minute [telephone conversation](#), followed up personally. Both men committed to working together to the mutual benefit of Ireland and the United States. The Taoiseach also spoke with [VP elect Mike Pence](#) on November 19<sup>th</sup>. They discussed bilateral cooperation and investment and the situation of the undocumented Irish in the U.S.

The [Taoiseach is visiting the U.S this week](#) for a 3-day business programme in Silicon Valley and New York where he will highlight Ireland as a great place for investment.

The [Taoiseach met with Pope Francis](#) at the Vatican on Nov 28<sup>th</sup>. The Pope has confirmed he will travel to Ireland in August 2018.

In an [article published by Independent.ie](#), Foreign Affairs Minister Charlie Flanagan wrote about shared history and the role of immigration in shaping an enduring bond between the US and Ireland.

Minister Flanagan has just concluded a two day [visit to Paris](#) focussed on bilateral relations, enhanced trade opportunities and EU and international matters, including Brexit.

Diaspora Minister Joe McHugh visited Boston in mid-November and stressed Government commitment to [undocumented Irish](#), and estimated 50,000 living in the U.S.

Two US Southeast companies announced in November the establishment of new operations in Dublin. Atlanta-based [MacStadium](#), a Mac hosting and cloud infrastructure provider launched its international headquarters in Dublin with plans to create 35 IT jobs over 3 years; and, North Carolina analytics giant, [SAS](#), opened a new office following its 2015 announcement to create 150 jobs over three years, equating to an investment of around €40 million.

The Minister for Employment and Small Business Pat Breen welcomed [Ireland's high rankings](#) in several recent publications confirming that "Ireland has one of the most SME (Small and Medium Enterprise) friendly environments in the EU...with SME's accounting for 99.8% of all enterprises in Ireland and employing more than 70% of people working in the private sector."

The seasonally adjusted [unemployment rate](#) in Ireland for November was 7.3%, down from 7.5% in October and down from 9.1% in November 2015 according to latest figures from the Central Statistics Office (CSO), with 72% of jobs in the past year created outside Dublin.

The Government of Ireland and the Northern Ireland Executive joined forces to participate in the November 15 launch of our collective bid to win the right to host the [Rugby World Cup in 2023](#).

This month, Ireland underlined its commitment to diversity and the welcome it provides to migrants. On 21 November President Michael D. Higgins [visited](#) the Islamic Cultural Centre of Ireland and hosted a [reception](#) for delegates attending the World Jewish Congress in Dublin. And Tánaiste and Minister for Justice, Frances Fitzgerald TD attended [two Citizenship Ceremonies in Dublin](#) on 25 November 2016 welcoming some 2,000 candidates as Ireland's newest naturalised citizens.

After adding to his UFC featherweight title, Irish Mixed Martial Artist professional, Conor McGregor, won the [UFC's lightweight championship title](#), becoming the UFC's first ever two-weight champion.

The movie [Loving](#) starring Irish actress Ruth Negga is garnering critical acclaim (and Oscar buzz).

We congratulate South Carolina native and recent Wofford College grad, Donovan Hicks, on his selection by the US-Ireland Alliance as one of 12 members (out of 323 applicants) of the [2018 Class of George J. Mitchell Scholars](#). He will attend Trinity College Dublin.

The formidable bond between the business communities of Savannah, Georgia and County Wexford was the subject of a substantive [article published in Savannah's daily newspaper](#) by reporter Mary Carr Mayle following in-depth interviews with Consul General Stephens and Savannah business executives recently returned from a trip to Ireland.

## Upcoming Events in the Southeast

The energy and excitement created by GAA in the southeast is building! Check out [Nashville GAC's take on the Mannequin Challenge](#). Follow your favorite GAA teams in the South East – click [here](#) for their websites.

The Ancient Order of Hibernians and [Delaney's Irish Music Pub](#) in Columbia, South Carolina host a Celtic Christmas Party on Dec 3<sup>rd</sup>.

The 2016 [Southern Region Oireachtas \(Irish dance\) Competition](#) will take place in Baltimore December 2-4.

Celtic Thunder's Emmet Cahill presents "[Christmas in Ireland](#)" on Tuesday, Dec 6<sup>th</sup> at Myers Park Presbyterian Church in Charlotte.

Irish tenor Emmet Cahill (a Celtic Thunder principal singer) presents a [Christmas in Ireland concert tour](#) Dec 6-15, with performances in Charlotte, Raleigh and Brevard, NC; Orlando and Clearwater, FL; and Columbia, SC.

The new South Florida Irish American Chamber of Commerce is hosting their inaugural annual [holiday gathering](#) on December 8<sup>th</sup> at Bokampers Sports Bar & Grill in Fort Lauderdale.

The 9<sup>th</sup> annual non-profit Celtic Kids Christmas event will be Sunday, Dec 11<sup>th</sup> at Ri Ra Irish Pub Atlanta, 2:00-4:30pm. Surplus funds will be donated to the St. Baldricks Foundation. [Click here for RSVP and details](#).

[Charlotte Irish Connection](#) will host their annual Christmas Party on December 11 at Tyber Creek Pub.

Ireland's Keith and Dristyn Getty, writers of modern hymns and carols, will *present* [Irish Christmas – A Celebration of Carols](#) at the Fox Theatre in Atlanta on December 12.

Celebrating 25 wonderful years of music, dance, poetry and mirth, The Celtic Company presents [Atlanta's Celtic Christmas](#) Dec 17 at Georgia State's Rialto Center for the Arts. Don't miss this essential element in Atlanta's annual Irish calendar!

With funding assistance from Culture Ireland, several upcoming Irish cultural events will take place in Miami:

- [Mother's Tankstation](#) presenting at Art Basel Miami Beach, 1-4 December
- [Gibbons & Nicholas](#) presenting works by Irish artists at Context Art Miami through Dec 4
- [Fidelio Trio](#), Mar 2, 2017, Florida International University, Miami Beach