

# IRELAND NEWS

Consulate of Ireland Newsletter for U.S. Southwest

## FÁILTE

### Fáilte Welcome!

Dear friends, A Cháirde,



Fáilte/Welcome to this fourth edition of the Irish Consulate Newsletter.

June was a very busy month across the region and for Ireland. This edition of the newsletter contains reports on many of the great events that have taken place across Texas, Colorado, New Mexico, Louisiana and Kansas City. As always, thanks to the many volunteers whose hard work and dedication make these initiatives possible. A special word of welcome to new boards of Irish Networks in New Orleans Austin. We also wish the Colorado Irish Festival every success on 8-10 July.

Summer 2016 is also an amazing few months for sport – congratulations to the Ireland and Northern Ireland soccer teams for playing so well in the European Championships and to the best fans in the world who charmed host nation France. Good luck to Team Ireland and Team USA in the Rio Olympics and Paralympic games!

Looking ahead to the Fall, we will be supporting more 1916 Commemoration events, including screenings of the film ‘1916 – the Irish Rebellion’. If you are interested in organising a local screening please contact the Consulate.

The next edition of the Newsletter will be published in early September. We welcome your contributions either on past events or your listings for future events and initiatives, and don't hesitate to contact the Consulate for information on support programmes for Irish initiatives abroad. If you did not receive this Newsletter directly into your e-mail box and would like to, please send us your e-mail address (see the ‘stay in touch.. .’ section at the end of the Newsletter).

I wish you an enjoyable 4<sup>th</sup> July holiday and a great summer!

Best wishes - Le gach dea-ghuí,

Adrian Farrell  
Consul General of Ireland

# RECENT EVENTS HIGHLIGHTS

## Consulate Honours Dolores McCall

On June 9<sup>th</sup>, the Consulate hosted an event honouring Dolores McCall and her strong and lasting engagement with Ireland with guests attending from Ireland and across Texas. Dolores has been a huge supporter of the Ireland Funds and in particular Glenstal Abbey in Limerick and Irish arts initiatives. Consul General Farrell read out a message written by President Michael D. Higgins for Dolores and the Taoiseach also thanked Dolores via video message at the event. We were delighted that many friends of Dolores joined us for the event - guests were wowed by the young performers from Austin's Fiddler's Green Music School as well as the award-winning Inishfree School of Irish Dance in Austin. Thank you Dolores!





## **New Mexico – Irish culture celebrated at Rio Grande Valley Celtic Festival**

On May 21 and 22, the 28<sup>th</sup> annual Rio Grande Valley Celtic Festival took place in Albuquerque, New Mexico and featured a variety of Celtic music, dancing, and games. Many thanks to the Festival directors and volunteers who helped make the event such a great success in 2016!



## **Austin – One year of marriage equality in Ireland**

The Consulate hosted a reception on May 26<sup>th</sup> to celebrate the first anniversary of marriage equality in Ireland. Guests included members of the Austin Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce, the Human Rights Campaign, and Equality Texas and Austin Mayor Steve Adler.



## **Dallas – Congratulations to Katherine O'Sullivan 2016 Texas Rose of Tralee**

The Texas Rose of Tralee selection was held on 7 May in Dallas. Austin's Katherine O'Sullivan was crowned as the Texas Rose for 2016 and will travel to Tralee in August. A celebration was held at BD Riley's Pub last Sunday in Katherine's honour, and keep an eye out for a future event to be hosted by the Consulate before Katherine heads to Kerry, Ireland in August to represent Texas!



## **Austin – Why Ireland leads the 'Good Country' Index**

Did you know that Ireland is placed first on the world's 'Good Country Index' which ranks countries on how they contribute to the common good of humanity. Global Austin asked to find out more and on 5 May Consul General Farrell delivered a lecture on Ireland's top ranking in the index. Many thanks to Margie Kidd for her help in organizing this successful event.



## **Texas – Consulate hosts events at EU-Texas Business Summit**

On Tuesday, 10 May, Austin hosted the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual EU-TX Business Summit. Speakers included Austin Mayor Steve Adler, as well as Caroline Vicini, Deputy Head of Delegation for the European Union to the United States. Ireland, like Texas, is a major exporter and the Consulate was delighted to host a reception with our Ireland House partners IDA Ireland and Enterprise Ireland for speakers and attendees. Thanks to Mortada Mohamed and Ben Ramirez at the World Affairs Council of Austin for their engagement with the Consulate on such a fantastic event.



## **Austin – remembering the first responders - 9/11 Memorial Exhibit**

The Consulate is honoured to display a number of items from the Ground Zero 360 exhibition recalling and commemorating first responders who were victims of the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001. Members of the public are welcome to come view the exhibit during the Consulate's opening hours. The Consulate thanks retired NYPD Officer Michele Mason and all at Ground Zero 360 for their service and for organising the exhibit is with the Consulate.



## **Kansas City - Seachtain na Gaeilge (Irish Language Week KC)**

The Kansas City Irish Center held an Irish Language Weekend from 24-26 June with the talented teacher and performer Brian Ó hAirt (who returned for his 6<sup>th</sup> year as instructor). Thanks to Brian and the wonderful Kansas City Irish Center for hosting this event aimed at fluent speakers and beginners



## Kansas City celebrates James Joyce at Bloomsday Celebration

Kansas City celebrated James Joyce and marked the annual Bloomsday with a screening of the "Joyce to the World" documentary, music by Irish musician Eddie Delahunt, and a theatre production of "Bloomsday Dublin: 16 June."



## New Orleans – Rose of Tralee

Congratulations to the 2016 New Orleans Rose of Tralee Shannon Burke, shown in the photo to the left with members of the Muggivan School of Irish Dance, who treated spectators to a grand performance.



## Irish Network news

The Irish Network Houston and the Houston GAA Gaels hosted a successful family day on 22 March.

The Consulate congratulates the new board (in photo at left) of Irish Network New Orleans (IN-NO) which was elected in June – IN-NO celebrated with an event on 25 June.

Austin's Irish Network will re-launch in July with an event on 21 July in downtown ATX – for more check out the Network's Twitter page at: [@IrishNetworkATX](https://twitter.com/IrishNetworkATX)

## STAY IN TOUCH WITH US

Website: [www.dfa.ie/austin](http://www.dfa.ie/austin)

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