

Consulate General of Ireland

Newsletter for the U.S. Southeast

January 2019

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EU Consuls General with Nashville Mayor David Briley (*center*) for a lively discussion on economic growth, inclusion, the environment and Brexit. This was part of a programme in Tennessee and Alabama organized by the Consulate General of France.

A chairde,

January is a month of new beginnings and this spirit is reflected in the upcoming work of the Consulate. I will travel to Dublin next week to participate in a conference entitled "Global Ireland – Making it Happen". This will bring together all of Ireland's Ambassadors and Consuls General to discuss putting our Global Ireland policy into action. As the Tánaiste has [said](#), this is the most ambitious international programme Ireland has embarked upon since the foundation of the State. The spirit of Global Ireland will continue to guide our work here in 2019.

In the spirit of our commitment to being a global citizen and a proud member of the European Union, from 1 January the Consulate has been serving as the local chair of the 7 EU Consulates General based in Atlanta. During our six-month tenure as chair, we will hope to highlight the historic and mutually beneficial ties linking the US and the EU.

Finally, we are delighted to begin the New Year by welcoming Ambassador Mulhall to Charlotte, North Carolina. Among other engagements, he will deliver a public lecture at UNC Charlotte on 15 January entitled ***A Virtuous Circle: Ireland, The EU and the U.S.*** We would be delighted if you could join us. Further details are in our event section.

Shane Stephens, Consul General
7 January 2019

Fostering Ireland-US Ties in Business, Academia & Culture

Tennessee



L: Roundtable and [podcast](#) with Atlanta-based EU Consuls General hosted by the Tennessee World Affairs Council and *The Tennessean*, Nashville's daily newspaper.

R: CG Stephens with ICON VP Tracey Felts Hervey. This Irish firm is a global leader in clinical research and employs 500 in Tennessee.



Florida

Vice Consul Eilís O'Keeffe joined the speaker programme on Irish culture and arts in South Florida organized by the South Florida Irish American Chamber of Commerce and partners. Below with SFIACC president Sean Murray & Aer Lingus regional sales manager Paula Svadlena.





in Dublin!



It was great to see the Florida Chamber of Commerce in Ireland driving interest in economic partnerships. [Four Irish firms](#) announced new investments in Florida during the trade mission, and Florida cyber security company [ReliaQuest](#) opened its first European office in Dublin.

North Carolina

Hearty congratulations to Charlotte's James Connolly GAA team on being named the USGAA Club of the Year for 2018. The award is selected by delegates from over 130 North American adult and youth clubs.





Ireland's Honorary Consul in NC, John Young, welcomes Jim McGuinness, Donegal All-Ireland winning manager, following his appointment as Head Coach of NC soccer club [Charlotte Independence](#). Above McGuinness with Independence CFO Bruce Cairnduff and Peter Byrne, chair of the Charlotte Irish Connection

South Carolina



CG Stephens enjoyed a constructive visit to USC for discussions on Irish Studies and the interests of its new Irish Heritage and History Group. It was also great to reconnect with the Ancient Order of Hibernians who invited him to Columbia.



Georgia



CG Stephens had to field some tough questions from these Georgia Tech students during his 'Consular Conversation' interview with *Global Atlanta* hosted by Miller & Martin Law.



We enjoyed hosting our friends from the Hibernian Benevolent Society of Atlanta for a Christmas "coffee" at the Consulate.



L: Wexford Mayor Tony Dempsey (L) warmly welcomes John Coleman, vice chairman of the Savannah Economic Development Authority, who led a [delegation to Ireland](#) as part of the [Tradebridge](#) initiative to connect Irish and Coastal Georgia businesses.

Below L: We congratulate Atlanta United, with Irish players Chris McCann and Jon Gallagher, on becoming US Major League Soccer champs!

Below R: The *Holly Bough* made it to Vice Consul O’Keeffe from her parents, who hail from the rebel county, and made sure she didn’t forget this Cork tradition since 1897.



Congratulations to John Maschinot on the 27th annual production of Atlanta’s Celtic Christmas. Choreography by Atlanta’s Claire Shirley and guitar by Galway’s Dave Curley were great additions.



Irish News

President Michael Higgins expressed his warmest wishes for the people of Ireland and around the world in his annual [Christmas and New Year message](#).

Taoiseach Leo Varadkar issued a [New Year's Day Statement](#) to mark important milestones in bringing social progress, economic prosperity and equality of opportunity to all parts of Ireland.

The Government published details of its preparation for a [possible "no deal" Brexit](#) as the UK's EU exit on March 29th nears. The Taoiseach also issued a statement summarizing [discussions with the European Council](#) in Brussels on Brexit and other topics including migration and security.

Ambassador [Daniel Mulhall was interviewed on NPR's](#) Here and Now on the possibility and ramifications of a return to a hard border between Ireland and Northern Ireland in the event of a "no deal" Brexit outcome.

The Minister for Finance and Public Expenditure & Reform, Paschal Donohoe TD, met with key members of the U.S. Administration in Washington and spoke on [vital issues for Ireland](#), including international trade, transatlantic relations and a global approach to taxation.

The Minister for Justice and Equality, Charlie Flanagan, announced that over 10,000 people were [granted Irish citizenship in 2018](#).

Minister Flanagan and the Minister of State for Equality, Immigration and Integration, David Stanton TD, [welcomed 22 Syrian families](#) to Ireland under the Irish Refugee Protection Programme.

2018 represented [60 years of unbroken UN peacekeeping service](#) by Ireland, the longest record of unbroken service in the world. Each month over 600 Defence Forces personnel, on average, are deployed overseas in Europe, Africa and the Middle East.

The Taoiseach launched the [Global Schools Programme](#) in which Irish students in secondary schools around the country will learn about the [Global Ireland](#) initiative to double Ireland's impact in the world by 2025.

The Kerry Group is [expanding its presence in Georgia](#), adding the Southeastern Mills customized coating and seasoning operation in Rome, Georgia to its long established facilities in Savannah and Calhoun.

The Minister for Communications, Climate Action and the Environment, Richard Bruton T.D published the first draft of [Ireland's National Energy and Climate Plan](#). He will also lead the development of an all of government action plan to make Ireland a leader in responding to climate change.

The Minister for Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, Josepha Madigan TD, announced €2.13m in grant [funding by Culture Ireland](#) for Irish arts globally. The next deadline for receipt of [grant applications](#) is February 15th for projects from May through August 2019. In 2018, Culture Ireland supported projects in 50 countries reaching a combined audience of 3 million.

Minister Madigan launched a traveling [pop-up museum](#) exploring 100 years of women's participation in politics and public life. Minister for Children and Youth Affairs, Dr Katherine Zappone, joined celebrations at the UN in New York to mark 100 years since women won the [right to vote](#) in Ireland. Irish poet [Eavan Boland recited a poem](#) she wrote for the occasion.

2018 was the [busiest year ever for tourism](#) in Ireland with 11.2 million overseas visitors and Dublin Airport seeing its busiest year in its 78 year history with over 30 million passengers.

Remember that our [Online Passport Renewal Service](#) has recently expanded services to permit the online renewal of children's passports among other new changes.

We congratulate [Shane Ryan](#) on securing Ireland's first ever World Championship swimming medal. He also set a new Irish record in the 100m freestyle event.

For [Game of Thrones](#) fans, HBO is opening its Northern Ireland sets to visitors in 2019 after the show's final season has aired.

GAA fans can follow the sport globally by signing onto the Croke Park-based monthly Newsletter. December edition can be found [here](#).

Upcoming Events in the Southeast

Ambassador Dan Mulhall will deliver a public lecture at UNC Charlotte on January 15th, 2019, 1:30-2:30pm titled ***A Virtuous Circle: Ireland, The EU and the U.S.*** Location: [Student Activity Center](#), Salon A. RSVP to: globaleducation@uncc.edu.

[Knoxville Irish Society](#) (KIS) offers multiple opportunities for Irish engagement in January. Details are at the links, and more information is available through: info@knoxvilleirish.com.

- January 11th, 6:00-9:00pm: Knoxville's [first annual Céilí dance](#)
- January 12th, 3:00-5:00pm: monthly Eat and Greet [social gathering](#)
- Sundays beginning January 20th, 12:30-2:30 pm: a new beginner [Irish language course](#), meeting in the City of Knoxville's public works center at 3131 Morris Avenue.

[Irish Network Atlanta](#) invites you to their 2019 Kick Off meeting on January 19th at 7:00pm at Fado Buckhead for networking and a chance to learn what's in store for the coming year!

GAA clubs from across Florida and several neighboring states will gather January 19, 2019 from 9:00-5:00 to play a series of hurling and Gaelic football matches in the 9th annual Florida Cup at Lakewood Ranch Adventure Park, 13010 Adventure Place, Bradenton, Florida. Supporters are encouraged to attend! Contact john@dsmssports.com for more information.

On January 19th and 20th, UNC Irish Sports hosts the collegiate NCGAA 2019 Hurling [Nationals](#) at Homestead Fields in Chapel Hill. [Raleigh GAA](#) will assist with referees and umpires and equipment.

The Program in Irish & Irish-American Studies of the College of Charleston will host the [29th Annual Conference](#) of the Southern Chapter of the American Conference for Irish Studies ("ACIS-South") from Jan 31-Feb 2.

[Irish Traditions Atlanta](#) has provided the following information on recurring opportunities to participate in/enjoy live sessions of Irish music:

Sundays, Athens GA: 4-7 pm, Irish Music and Song Session at The Globe

Tuesdays:

7 - 10 pm, Sandy Springs: The Atlanta Open Celtic Session at Meehan's Irish Pub

7:30 - 10:30 pm, Decatur: The Marlay House pub. Irish, Old Time, Blues, Cajun, Gypsy swing... A world of roots music!

Wednesdays:

8 - 10:30 pm, Dunwoody: Open Irish trad session at O'Brian's Tavern

8 pm, Atlanta: Live Irish and Old Time music at The Wrecking Bar Brewpub in Little Five Points

Third Thursdays in Clayton, GA: 6 - 9 pm: "Traditional Irish Jam Session" at The Wicked Pig, 151 N. Main St.

The Diaspora Heritage Series returns next month!