

Consulate General of Ireland

Newsletter for the U.S. Southeast

April 2019

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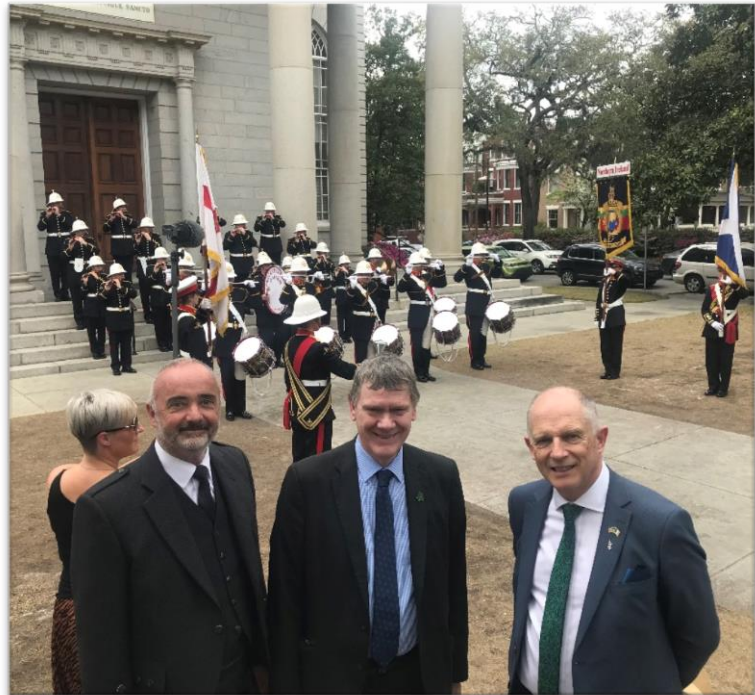
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From left to right: Richard Hanna, Ulster Scots Agency; Dr. Andrew McCormick, Northern Ireland Executive Office and Minister David Stanton pictured at the Omagh Protestant Boys Melody Flute Band performance at Savannah's Independent Presbyterian Church

Message from the Consul General

A chairde,

This month's edition focuses on our St. Patrick's Day programme. We were delighted to [arrange Minister David Stanton's visit to Atlanta, Savannah and Augusta](#). [Highlights](#) included a meeting with Governor Brian Kemp, the first address by an Irish Government Minister to the Georgia Legislature and a visit to the Edward the Confessor Parish in North Augusta.

In addition, the Consulate was instrumental in organising the [participation of the Omagh Protestant Boys Melody Flute Band](#) in the 195th Savannah St. Patrick's Day Parade. It was wonderful to witness the welcome the band received on the streets of Savannah and we hope that this initiative, which was a partnership with the [Ulster Scots Agency](#) in Belfast and [Northern Ireland Bureau in DC](#), will help further reconciliation on the island of Ireland.

Shane Stephens, 5 April 2019

Strengthening Political Links over St. Patrick's Day 2019



Gov. Kemp gave Minister Stanton a warm welcome to Georgia.



Agriculture Commissioner Gary Black presented a framed "Declaration of Mutual Cooperation between the State of Georgia and Ireland" to Minister Stanton.



Minister Stanton brought greetings from Ireland [to Georgia's House](#) and Senate and outlined our Global Ireland Strategy for doubling our impact in this region by 2025.



Top: Minister Stanton met with the City of Atlanta

Right: Minister Stanton, Dr Andrew McCormick, and Mayor Eddie DeLoach at the William Jasper Ceremony in Savannah, GA



Promoting Ireland's economic interests



Left: The Minister visited CRH Americas HQ in Atlanta, GA. This Irish firm employs 45,000 people in North America.



Right: Minister Stanton delivered keynote remarks at a seminar on **"Why U.S. Companies should Choose Ireland for Their European Headquarters"** which was hosted by IDA Ireland and partners law firms Miller & Martin, from Atlanta, and Mason, Hayes & Curran, from Dublin.

Below: Minister Stanton visited the Global HQ of the **Coca-Cola Company**. The Minister underlined his support for the company's strong policies on gender equality, diversity and inclusion and its recent decision to set up new research and EU HQ functions in Mayo and Dublin respectively.



Above: At the Irish Chamber Breakfast, Minister Stanton met with Bill Duffy, chamber President, representatives of the three Irish FinTech firms that have set up most recently in Atlanta (TransferMate, Corlytics and WorldNet TPS) and Ms Mary Lauren Golden, the winner of the St Patrick's Day essay competition for secondary school students.

Earlier in the week, Enterprise Ireland organised a Fin Tech Trade Mission to Atlanta, supported by the Consulate. Read more [here](#)



Left to right: Enterprise Ireland's SVP Rory Power and Chairman Terence O'Rourke with Consul General Stephens

Meeting Our Irish Community



Minister Stanton joined members of the Edward the Confessor Parish in North Augusta for a special St Patrick's Day Mass and community reception.

The Atlanta St Patrick's Day reception was co-hosted by IDA Ireland and the Consulate General and catered by Limerick-born Executive Chef Thomas McKeown, pictured right.



Left: The Minister started St Patrick's Day itself with the **Gaelic Athletic Club of Augusta**



Right: Minister Stanton's met with participants in **Irish Network Atlanta's** new mentorship programme.



Honouring Irish Heritage



Pictured left to right: Fr. Dennis Dorner, Consul General Stephens, Minister Stanton, Monsignor Henry Gracz & Dónal Noonan during Minister Stanton's visit to the **Catholic Shrine of the Immaculate Conception Church** in Atlanta, GA. This historic Church is known for its Irish roots and its special ministries for the homeless, migrant, and LGBTQ communities. Minister Stanton visited the Tomb of Fr Thomas O'Reilly who famously saved the central churches and civic buildings of Atlanta from flames during the U.S. Civil War.



Minister Stanton participated in the annual Fr. O'Reilly ceremony in Atlanta City Hall, where the City commemorates his actions in saving central Atlanta from the flames during the Civil War. Minister Stanton pictured laying a wreath at the memorial to Fr. O'Reilly outside Atlanta City Hall.



We were delighted to recognise the extraordinary contributions of Irish American women over the decades in the new Blazing A Trail exhibition. This exhibition highlights the lives and legacies of some extraordinary Irish American women in the fields of humanitarianism, science, the arts and political life. The exhibition was displayed at the Atlanta St. Patrick's Day Black Tie Ball and our St. Patrick's Day Reception.

195th Savannah St. Patrick's Day Parade



Minister Stanton pictured with the Irish Air Corps Band who participated in this year's Savannah St. Patrick's Day Parade



Right: Omagh Protestant Boys Melody Flute Band travelled from Northern Ireland with the support of the Consulate, Ulster Scots Agency and Northern Ireland Bureau in order to participate in this year's Savannah parade



Left: Minister Stanton with Dr. Andrew McCormick, representative of Northern Ireland



Right: Omagh Protestant Boys Band received the warmest of welcomes from the people of Savannah



Minister Stanton pictured with representatives from the Irish Prison Service who participated in this year's Savannah St. Patrick's Day Parade

Minister Stanton travelled in a true American car in Savannah's St. Patrick's Day Parade



Left: Mayor of Savannah Eddie DeLoach presents keys to the city to Minister Stanton and Dr. Andrew McCormick.

Savannah Parade Committee pictured right with Richard Hanna, Ulster Scots Agency.



Lord Mayor of Cork visits Miami



Left: Lord Mayor of Cork Mick Finn and Mayor of Miami Francis Suarez sat down this month in Miami

Right: Both mayors signed a friendship & cooperation agreement

The City of Miami also took the opportunity to welcome the announcement of the opening of a new Irish Consulate & Ireland House trade office in Miami



From left to right: Adrienne Rodgers, Head of Enterprise Cork City; Ann Doherty, CEO Cork City; Emilio Gonzalez Miami City Manager, Lord Mayor of Cork, Mick Finn; Katherine Fitzpatrick, Director of International Relations at Cork Chamber; Consul General Shane Stephens and Honorary Consul Ian O'Flaherty

Other events in March



Consul General Stephens presented Georgia Southern President Shelley C. Nickel with a copy of [Our Future Will Become the Past of Other Women](#), a poem by Eavan Boland with illustrations by Paula McGloin to mark 100 years since the women of Ireland were granted the right to vote.

Consul General Stephens was in Savannah to mark the announcement by Georgia Southern of the opening of a learning Center in Wexford, Ireland.



Consul General Stephens met South Georgia Tormenta FC player Mikie Rowe from Wexford at the announcement



Along with representatives from Wexford County Council and the Mayor of Wexford who were in Savannah for the occasion and also participated in the St. Patrick's Day Parade

Right: Consul General Stephens met Colm Reilly & Conor Griffiths, the State of Georgia's new FDI Specialist & Trade Representative for Ireland & the UK at the International Day at the Georgia Capitol



Left: Consul General Stephens delivered the keynote address at the University System of Georgia European Studies Conference



St. Patrick's Day across the South East



Pictured left and below: The Hillsborough River in Tampa turned green for the Annual 2019 Mayor's River O'Green Fest



Left and Below: Huntsville, Alabama St. Patrick's Day Parade included Irish dancers and a flute band.





Left: Honorary Consul Ian O'Flaherty sat on a judging panel for the annual St Patrick's Day parade in Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

Below: Irish dancers participate in Fort Lauderdale St. Patrick's Day Parade



Left: Grand Marshal Peter Bryne leads the Charlotte, North Carolina St Patrick's Day Parade

Irish News

President Michael D. Higgins extended greetings to the global Irish family in his annual [St. Patrick's Day Message](#).

The Government has [advanced its contingency planning](#) and preparations for a No Deal Brexit scenario.



Taoiseach Leo Varadkar [participated](#) in St. Patrick's Day events at the White House, including the traditional presentation of the bowl of Shamrock (pictured right) before marching in Chicago's St. Patrick's Day Parade. Watch the Taoiseach's St. Patrick's Day message [here](#)

Taoiseach Leo Varadkar [launched](#) the Action Plan for Education 2019, with a focus on empowering through learning.

Taoiseach Leo Varadkar [launched](#) Future Jobs Ireland, a whole-of-Government framework for the next phase of Ireland's economic development.

Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade, Simon Coveney T.D., [pledged](#) a further €25million in humanitarian assistance to Syria. This brings Ireland's total contribution to the humanitarian response for the Syria crisis to over €140million since 2012, our largest response to any single crisis.

Minister of State for the Diaspora and International Development, Ciarán Cannon T.D., [announced](#) an extra €1million in funding for grants to Irish organisations abroad through the Emigrant Support Programme.

The Tánaiste and Minister of State Ciarán Cannon [announced](#) over €1 million in funding in support of those affected by Cyclone Idai, among the worst weather-related disasters ever experienced in Africa. This initial response comprises €400,000 released by the Embassy of Ireland in Mozambique to the World Food Programme, €500,000 to the Red Cross response in Malawi, Mozambique and Zimbabwe and €150,000 in Irish Aid Funding to Concern Worldwide for activities in Malawi.

Minister for Business, Enterprise and Innovation, Heather Humphreys T.D. and Minister for Justice and Equality, Charlie Flanagan T.D., [announced](#) that spouses and partners of Critical Skills Employment Permit holders will be able to access the Irish labour market without the need to obtain an employment permit.

Minister Charlie Flanagan [announced](#) Ireland's ratification of the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combatting violence against women and domestic violence (the Istanbul Convention) on International Women's Day.

Georgia Southern University [announced](#) the establishment of a learning center in Ireland at a ceremony attended by Consul General Stephens.



Ambassador Daniel Mulhall [received](#) the Freedom of Waterford on 4 March.

Leading Chinese translator of "The Letters of Samuel Beckett" Bo Cao [will be in residence](#) at Emory University for 2019.

Upcoming Events in the Southeast

Lilt is coming to the College of Charleston

The trad band, [Lilt](#), are coming to the Blacklock House on **Sunday, 7 April**. This is an intimate house concert--only 30 tickets, at \$15 each, will be sold. Free beer/wine reception at 1pm; music starts at 1:30. Email [Joe Kelly](#) to reserve your ticket now!

Upcoming lecture by Ambassador Mulhall at College of Charleston

The Irish Ambassador to the United States, Daniel Mulhall, will visit the College of Charleston to give a public lecture:

9 April, 3:15-4:15pm.

Free and open to the public.

Beatty Center, Wells Fargo Auditorium

Dr Aaron Astor presents the 1916 Easter Rising

Knoxville Irish Society (KIS) is thrilled to announce that Maryville College's Associate Professor of History, Dr Aaron Astor, will give a presentation entitled "The Easter Rising and the long struggle for Ireland" to KIS members and non-members at their next Second Saturday social gathering on April 13th, 3pm-5pm @ the Knoxville Public Works Center 3131 Morris Avenue.

[Register here](#)

Remembrance of Nurse Camille O'Brien

Please join us in paying tribute to Camille O'Brien, a Georgia WWI hero, originally from County Sligo, Ireland. Camille served as a nurse in the Emory Medical Unit that cared for wounded soldiers in Blois, France from July 1918 until March 1919. Camille was the only casualty among her unit's staff and was originally buried in the soldiers' section in Blois, France. In 1921 her remains were transported back to the United States where she was buried in an unmarked grave. Now, on the centennial of her death, there will be a special service commemorating O'Brien at Greenwood Cemetery including the dedication of a headstone.

18 April 2019, 11:00 am

Greenwood Cemetery

1173 Cascade Cir. Sw.

Atlanta, GA 30311

Contact [Michael Hitt](#) for more information

Molly Elizabeth Gibson & Kenna Concert at

Smith's Olde Bar

Sat, April 27, 2019 from 6:00 PM – 9:00 PM

Get your tickets [here](#).

SAVE THE DATE

APRIL 18 2019

★ **HONORING CAMILLE** ★ **A GEORGIA WWI HERO** ★

Please join us in paying tribute to the only nurse, from the famous Emory Unit, to die in France. Nurse Camille O'Brien worked in Blois, France, at Base Hospital 43. She treated soldiers that had been gassed, hit by artillery, shot, stabbed or sick. She would place their health over her own. When the Emory Unit was brought back to the US, in 1919, Camille with others from her unit, volunteered to stay behind, to continue to care for the men. On April 18, 1919, Camille died of Spinal Meningitis caused by her already weakened body. She was buried, in Blois, next to US soldiers and given a military funeral. In 1921, Camille's body was returned to the US and left in an unmarked grave, at Greenwood Cemetery. On April 18, 2019, Hero Nurse Camille O'Brien will finally be recognized with a beautiful gravestone. She has not been forgotten.

MISS CAMILLE LOUISE O'BRIEN
Atlanta, Ga.

Miss O'Brien entered the service of the American Red Cross as nurse in February, 1918. She was attached to Base Hospital No. 43, with which unit, she sailed for overseas. Was later attached to Evacuation Hospital No. 35, then transferred to Camp Hospital, No. 29. Contracted spinal-meningitis, which resulted in her death at Blois, France, April 18th, 1919.

REMEMBRANCE SERVICE LOCATION:
Greenwood Cemetery
1173 Cascade Cir. Sw.
Atlanta, GA 30311
April 18th, 2019
11:00 am

MARKING OF HER FINAL RESTING PLACE, DONATED BY H.M. PATTERSON & SON - OGLETHORPE HILL CHAPEL

The 29th Annual Peach State Feis & 2nd Feile Georgia Irish dancing competitions

May 4-5 at the Hotel at Avalon, 9000 Avalon Blvd, Alpharetta, GA. Register at ifeis.net. Spectators are admitted free.

The North American Feis Commission James Brennan Music Scholarship for 15 to under 21 year old musicians who wish to play at Feiseanna will be held mid-day on May 4 at the Peach State Feis and offers a \$500.00 First Place award. Register at ifeis.net.

Camogie, Hurling and Football Practice

Camogie: Sunday 11 am - 1 pm, Sweetapple Park, Roswell. Tuesdays at Candler Park at 7 pm

Coed Gaelic Football: Fridays, 7-8 pm, Hammond Park, Sandy Springs.

Coed Hurling: Fridays, 8-0, Hammond Park.

Hurling: Sundays 10-11 am, Sweetapple Park, Roswell.

ALL NEW PLAYERS WELCOME! (Bring a friend!)

Recurring Events

On the second Saturday of each month In Dahlonega there is an open Irish music session, from 2-5 pm, at Canvas and Cork (fine art and fine wine), 90 N. Meaders St. Dahlonega, GA. Parking is free.

Every Sunday in Athens, GA come to an Irish Music and Song Session at The Globe in Athens from 4-7 pm

Tuesday Events

7 - 10 pm The Atlanta Open Celtic Session at [Meehan's Irish Pub](#) in Sandy Springs. Free parking.

7:30 - 10:30 pm Live music at [The Marlay House](#) pub in Decatur. Led by John Maschinot, George Norman, Jan Smith, and Scott Russell, and joined by invited guests from near & far, every Tuesday's a party at The Marlay. Irish, Old Time, Blues, Cajun, Gypsy swing... A world of roots music! Free parking.

Wednesday Events

8 - 10:30 pm Trad Irish session at [O'Brian's Tavern](#) in Dunwoody. Free Parking.

~8 pm: Live Irish and Old Time music at [The Wrecking Bar Brewpub](#) in Little Five Points. Valet or neighbourhood parking.

Be sure to send in your events for inclusion in the Newsletter! To: hannah.coleman@dfa.ie & eilis.okeeffe@dfa.ie