

# Consulate General of Ireland

## Newsletter

Atlanta, August 2016

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### Message from the Consul General

We do not normally publish in mid-summer, but I feel an obligation to help prepare you for the football games in Dublin.

On September 3<sup>rd</sup> Georgia Tech will take on Boston College at the Aviva Stadium in Dublin in the [Aer Lingus Football Classic](#). Also, on September 2<sup>nd</sup>, [high school football](#) teams Westminster, Marist and Blessed Trinity from Atlanta, Belen Jesuit and Community School of Naples from Florida and St Peter's from New Jersey will play at historic Trinity College Dublin. Over 20,000 tickets have already been sold outside Ireland.

This will be much more than a game. Game week will see a whole series of pep rallies and tailgates take over Dublin. These will provide the perfect platform for the Yellow Jacket and BC Eagles bands and cheerleaders and spark huge public excitement in the centre of our capital. The Boston College CEO Club and IDA Ireland will host high level business meetings – I'm looking forward to the speech from Coca-Cola CEO Muhtar Kent. Several exceptional academic forums will also take place. The [GRIDIRON GUIDE](#) will profile all the public events.

Back in Atlanta, preparations are intensifying. I will meet with most of the teams before their departure and will join the Yellow Jacket's Rick Thorpe at an Irish Chamber of Atlanta event on the game at Fado on August 11<sup>th</sup> from 5.30 to 7.30pm (RSVP to Chamber President Bill Duffy, ([bill.duffy@theaspiregroupinc.com](mailto:bill.duffy@theaspiregroupinc.com) ) According to the [AIC](#), every aspect of the team's preparations have been considered, including a bacon chef and an order for giant hotel beds!

*Shane Stephens, Consul General of Ireland*

## Irish News

The Government has continued to implement the post-BREXIT strategy announced on the day of the UK referendum decision. The Taoiseach provided a detailed account of this strategy in a [speech at MacGill Summer School](#) on July 18, and met with Chancellor [Angela Merkel](#) in Berlin, President [François Hollande](#) in Dublin and Prime Minister [Theresa May](#) in London to advance our interests in this regard. He also participated an extraordinary meeting of the [British Irish Council in Cardiff](#) focused on BREXIT with Minister Flanagan, the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade.

Minister Flanagan outlined [Ireland's post Referendum views](#) to Ambassadors in Dublin and communicated our BREXIT position in meetings with the UK Foreign Secretary and Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, EU Foreign Ministers in Brussels and Germany's Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs in Berlin.

IDA Ireland continues to be one of the strongest performers in Europe in the foreign direct investment sector, with [new investments creating 9,100 jobs](#) in the first half of 2016.

Trinity College Dublin researchers have announced [a technological breakthrough in data storage](#) with a device under development that will transfer data 100 times faster than is possible today.

We have had another well-timed breakthrough in our trading relationship with the U.S. Ireland has become the first country in the EU with the [opportunity to export manufacturing beef](#) [minced beef and the like] to the US in 15 years.

The latest report from Bord Iascaigh Mhara (Irish Sea Fisheries Board) demonstrates the strength of our seafood sector, which contributes over €1 billion in GDP and employs over 11,000 people: [Business of Seafood – a snapshot of Ireland's Seafood Sector report](#).

The population of Ireland is still growing steadily. The preliminary population total from the [April 2016 census](#) was 4,757,976 persons, an increase of 3.7% since April 2011.

[Dr. Marc Ó Gríofa](#), an Irish physician, was chosen as one of six crew members on NASA's undersea analog mission, [NEEMO 21](#) (NASA Extreme Environment Mission Operations). He will oversee the deployment, research and development of several life sciences projects during the mission.

By the end of July, the [Irish Navy](#) had rescued over 10,000 people from the Mediterranean. "The deployment of Irish Naval vessels to the Mediterranean to engage in humanitarian search and rescue tasks is an important element in Ireland's response to the migration crisis in the Mediterranean" as Minister Paul Kehoe explained.

Ireland was shocked by the terrible attacks in France, Germany and the U.S. this month and condolences were expressed by the Government and its representatives.

Following cases of locally transmitted Zika virus in Florida, Ireland's [travel advice](#) was updated.

The [George Mitchell Scholarship Program application](#) for a year of postgraduate study in Ireland beginning fall 2017 is now open. Sponsored by the US-Ireland Alliance, the application deadline is September 30, 2016. There are many other scholarship opportunities available to international students from a wide variety of sources to fund [education in Ireland](#).

Ireland will have its largest delegation since 1948 at the [Olympics](#) in Rio with 77 athletes competing across 13 sports.

[Online Irish passport renewals](#) will be introduced in 2017.

## Upcoming Events in the Southeast

Culture Ireland has announced funding for a range of outstanding [Irish cultural events](#) in the US Southeast as listed below [check websites of each artist to verify dates; the ranges listed include multiple-city tours]

- Helen O'Leary exhibiting 'Rhyme and Reason 2016' at Art Basel Miami, 6 August - 5 Dec 2016
- Trio Festivale, Sept-Oct 2016, Memphis, TN and Oxford, MS
- Theatre Gare St. Lazare tour of Moby Dick, 23-25 September, Gainesville, FL
- Mother's Tankstation presenting at Art Basel Miami Beach, Oct - Dec 2016
- Gibbons & Nicholas presenting works by Irish artists at Context Art Miami 29 Nov-4 Dec 2016
- Theatre Cahoots NI, 'Lights! Camera! Math! tour Jan-Mar 2017, North Miami Beach, Sarasota and West Palm Beach, FL; and Clemson, SC
- Fidelio Trio, Feb-Mar 2017, Miami

[The Atlanta Irish Music School](#) is now enrolling new and returning students (ages 4 to 18 years) in traditional Irish Music classes in Roswell, Peachtree City, Norcross, Decatur. Please check the website or contact Katherine Thomas ([AtlantIrishMusicSchool@gmail.com](mailto:AtlantIrishMusicSchool@gmail.com)) for upcoming August Open House events, and for information on marching in the August 6 Old Soldier's Day Parade.

The Irish Chamber of Atlanta will host Rick Thorpe, Associate Athletic Director of Sales and Fan Experience at Georgia Tech, Consul General Shane Stephens and IDA VP Micheál Smith for a headline "pep rally" and networking programme on August 11<sup>th</sup> for the upcoming Georgia Tech vs Boston College football game. You are invited to join this lively event at Fadó Buckhead, 5.30-7.30pm. RSVP to Chamber president Bill Duffy: [bill.duffy@theaspiregroupinc.com](mailto:bill.duffy@theaspiregroupinc.com).

Consul General Stephens will be the featured speaker in Global Atlanta's *Consular Conversations* series on August 17<sup>th</sup>, discussing with the local business community Ireland's economic growth, the impact of Brexit, and opportunities connected to the upcoming Georgia Tech football game in Dublin. [Registration limited](#).

[Nashville GAC](#) will tour four parks in their city during the month of August with "demos and instructionals" to bring awareness to the Irish sports of hurling, camogie, and Gaelic football.

On Friday, September 9<sup>th</sup>, Charlotte Irish Connection (CIC) will celebrate 30 years of providing services to local Irish and Charlotte area communities. The super Irish band from New York, "McClellan Avenue", will headline the fun at Tyber Creek Pub. On September 18<sup>th</sup>, CIC will host a screening of [1916 The Irish Rebellion](#) at International House in Charlotte. See [www.charlotteirish.org](http://www.charlotteirish.org) (updates pending), and direct inquiries to [info@charlotteirish.org](mailto:info@charlotteirish.org).