

# Consulate General of Ireland

## Newsletter for the U.S. Southeast

January 2017

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ÉIRE  
IRELAND

19  
2016

Clár Comórtha  
Céad Bliain  
Centenary  
Programme

### Message from the Consul General

A chairde,

Participation in the *Ireland 2016* programme of commemorations has been a deeply fulfilling experience. We have been brought together in a special way this year, both in Ireland where over one million took part in the Easter Sunday events in Dublin, and here in the Southeast of the U.S. where more than 25 excellent events were organised.

It was important that our programme should recognise the full complexity of our history and represent a wide range of perspectives on this seminal period. I am also glad that we focused on the inspiring idealism of the women and men of our revolutionary generation. It was valuable for us to recall (in the words of our President) "elements of our past that can provide us with a lasting source of pride and confidence, as well as a compass for the future."

Here in the Southeast, I am proud of the fact that we were able to facilitate fresh and, at times, challenging reflection within Irish communities while also engaging with non-Irish friends on Ireland's dramatic independence story and its wider resonances. It has also been wonderful, and fitting, to see the role that Irish culture in all its diverse forms has played in marking our achievements over the last 100 years.

We are indebted to those who have supported our centenary programme in the Southeast. It was a special privilege to have Minister Paul Kehoe and the Irish Defence Forces participate in events in Savannah and to have historians including Bríona Nic Dhiarmada, Roy Foster, Christopher Fox, Roisin Higgins, Joe Lee, Ruán O'Donnell and Karen Steele visit to speak about 1916. However, most of our programme was locally produced by Irish and non-Irish community organisations, academics, actors, artists, musicians, historians, journalists and other friends. I wish to thank you all.

In a range of ways large and small, *Ireland 2016* has brought us closer, strengthened us and readied us for the road ahead.

With best wishes for 2017.

Is mise le meas,

*Shane Stephens*

## Irish Business and Culture Around the Southeast



Meeting with recently re-elected Miami Dade County Mayor Carlos A. Giménez

CEO of the Greater Miami Convention and Visitors Bureau, Irish-American Bill Talbert seems more than ready to welcome Irish people to Miami.

Exploring opportunity around the new Aer Lingus Dublin-Miami route and developing business connections for the new South Florida Irish-American Chamber of Commerce



Emilio Gonzales, CEO Miami International Airport, and the MIA team



Many thanks to 1916 Centenary event partners who attended our screening of the Irish Film Board's [After '16](#). (The top picture is from [A Terrible Hullabaloo](#))

L-R: Michael Hickey, John Maschinot, Consul General Stephens, Sandra Hughes, Marilyn Richtarik, Eunice Lockhart Moss, Joana Daniel, Kyle Crew, Judy Thomas



Fabulous 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary performance of **Atlanta's Celtic Christmas** produced by John Maschinot's The Celtic Company.



Irish Network Atlanta has launched its official website, be sure to visit:  
[www.irishnetworkatlanta.com](http://www.irishnetworkatlanta.com)



Consul General Stephens welcomed Dr. Rankin Sherling to the Consulate to discuss the Irish in the deep south, his Gaelige language instruction at Alabama's Marion Military Institute and his book *The Invisible Irish* on the transatlantic migration of Irish Protestants in the nineteenth century.

## Irish News

According to the Irish Independent, Ireland is on track to be [Europe's fastest growing economy](#) in 2016. This assessment was based on CSO statistics reflecting a [third quarter GDP growth of 4.0%](#) quarter-on-quarter over 2015. These figures are the first estimate of growth in the Irish economy since the Brexit referendum, indicating a more benign initial impact than initially anticipated.

[Speaking with Bloomberg's John Mickelwait](#) during a 3-day business programme in the U.S., Taoiseach Enda Kenny provided fascinating insights on Ireland's positions on Brexit, tax and EU Membership.

In a [wide-ranging keynote speech](#) to the [European Movement Ireland](#) on 15 December, Foreign Affairs Minister Charlie Flanagan reiterated Ireland's position as part of "Team EU", his remarks also addressing emergent Populism, Syria, Ukraine and the migration crisis.

Ireland announced the allocation of [€14 million in humanitarian funding](#) to the UN Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF), a vital lifeline for humanitarian operations around the world.

The Government released its first [Progress Report](#) on the [Programme for a Partnership Government](#). This Programme, published in May, sets out detailed actions and commitments of the Government for tackling the nation's most pressing challenges "to make people's lives better in every part of Ireland."

Building on the success of Ireland 2016, the Taoiseach [launched the Creative Ireland Programme](#), a major cross-governmental initiative and legacy project that seeks to inspire creativity and expand access to cultural activity across Ireland. It aims to enable the creative potential of all children; empower creativity in every community; spur investment in creative and cultural infrastructure; elevate Ireland as a centre of excellence in media production, and enhance Ireland's global reputation abroad.

The Minister for Arts, Heritage Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs, [Heather Humphreys TD, paid tribute](#) on New Year's Eve to all of those across public life and civic society who helped make *Ireland 2016 Centenary Programme* a big success, saying "the experience of this year has reminded us all of the transformative power of culture...to tell our very different stories, to heal divisions, to bring communities together, and to strengthen our identity."

[Coca-Cola](#) was presented the Foreign Direct Investment Company of the Year award by IDA CEO, Martin Shanahan, at the annual Business and Finance Irish Business Awards 2016.

Ireland published a summary of its [legal arguments in the Apple State Aid case](#), on which it disagrees with the European Commission's characterization of Apple's tax treatment by the Irish Government.

Four U.S. Irish Americans were among eleven worldwide honored by President Higgins at the Presidential [Distinguished Service Awards](#) for Irish Abroad ceremony at Áras an Uachtaráin on 12 December.

Congratulations to Caitriona Balfe, Ruth Negga, Colin Farrell and the Sing Street movie on their [Golden Globe nominations](#).

2016 has been the best year ever for overseas [tourism to Ireland](#), with the latest estimates indicating 10.5 million people will have visited Ireland, up approximately 11% over 2015.

Norwegian Air was granted a long-sought foreign carrier permit by the US Dept. of Transportation for [direct US flights to Cork](#) and will launch a low-cost service from/to Boston in July, with plans to add New York and Shannon routes.

## Upcoming Events in the Southeast

Emory University will host a poetry reading open to the public on January 24<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 p.m. by Professor Justin Quinn, Dublin born and Trinity College Dublin educated author of six books of poetry, most recently *Early House*, as well as a novel, translations of several Czech poets, and four academic books. Location: Oxford Road Building – Living Room, 1390 Oxford Road, Atlanta 30322.

Plan now to attend the [first annual Lowcountry Irish Festival](#) Feb 11-12 at the Omar Shrine Convention Center in Mt. Pleasant, SC, near Charleston, in cooperation with *The Charleston Irish Historical Society*, *The Ancient Order of Hibernians*, *College of Charleston Irish Studies* and *The Hibernian Society*. This family friendly musical and cultural festival is celebrating all things uniquely Irish in the South Carolina Lowcountry.

*Let us hear from you on upcoming events so that we can publicise!*

*Send notices to:*

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