

# Consulate General of Ireland

## Newsletter for the U.S. Southeast

April 2018

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Minister Michael D'Arcy impressed by new Atlanta office of [FINEOS](#). He was welcomed by executives Chuck Johnson and Korie Jackson and accompanied by Sean McWilliams of Enterprise Ireland and CG Stephens. Read [Global Atlanta's](#) take on Ireland's new FinTech stronghold in Atlanta.

### Message from the Consul General

A chairde,

In March, our St Patrick's Day programme celebrated the [Irish Advantage](#), the innovative, flexible and trusted nature of what our firms offer, as well as the more traditional creative gifts of our people.

Highlights were Minister Michael D'Arcy's visits to insurance technology company FINEOS, the newest part of Ireland's FinTech Hub in Atlanta, and to Mergon and E+I Engineering, two cutting-edge Irish manufacturing operations in Anderson, South Carolina, that together employ over 500 people. These visits were facilitated by Enterprise Ireland's Sean McWilliams and Caroline Donnelly.

However, for me personally, the most wonderful moment was the burst of song from Bishop Kevin Boland before the kick-off of Savannah's great Parade. [Enjoy this clip!](#)

**Shane Stephens**

## Minister D'Arcy's economic diplomacy programme

Right: The Minister joins an economic growth panel at the HQ of AvidXChange, hosted by the Charlotte Chamber of Commerce. See the write-up by the [Charlotte Business Journal](#).

Below with E+I Engineering, our leading provider of electrical switchgear & power distribution systems



Left: Test driving the technology at Mergon, Irish innovators in plastics



Left: An engaging exchange on payments and FinTech with Raphael Bostic, President of the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta



Right: With Global Payments' Chief Product Officer, Frank Young, whose family hails from County Roscommon



IDA SVP Paul Veale emphasizing Ireland's economic strengths at our St. Patrick's Day reception

With Dr Frank Rossiter and Dr Howard Keeley at the launch of the Savannah-Wexford TradeBridge. See the [Savannah Morning News](#) account of the TradeBridge. You may also enjoy the Minister's St Patrick's Day [op-ed](#) in this fine paper.



Minister D'Arcy joins Hala Moddemog, President of the Metro Atlanta Chamber of Commerce, in leading a roundtable discussion on FinTech and financial services

## And a time for celebrating our Irish heritage



Above: Minister D'Arcy participates in Savannah's Sgt William Jasper ceremony celebrating the tradition of Irish service in the US military, and gives a mid-parade interview.



Right: with Charlotte's GAA women's football champions



Below: The Minister joined the Hibernian Benevolent Society of Atlanta at City Hall to recall the legacy of Father Thomas O'Reilly who saved Atlanta from flames during the U.S. Civil War.



## Exploring Irish-Jewish connections in Savannah



Wonderful launch of '[Representations of Jews in Irish Literature](#)' exhibition at Mickve Israel Synagogue in Savannah by NUI Galway's Prof Pól Ó Dochartaigh, with warm welcome from Rabbi Robert Haas & Dr. Howard Keeley at Georgia Southern. See [WTOC coverage](#) of the exhibit, and [Connect Savannah's article](#): *Irish Jews: A closer look at a lesser-known aspect of the Irish experience.*

The exhibition ran throughout March and was punctuated by 3 other public lectures & events: "Daniel O'Connell: A hero to the Jews" by Prof Howard Keeley; "Children of Erin and Abraham: Irish-Jewish Connections in Savannah" by Herbert Victor & representatives of the Hibernian Society of Savannah and the Catholic Diocese of Savannah; and a "Pop-Up Céilí: An Irish-Jewish Celebration in Words and Music"



## Business and Culture in the #SPD2018 season



Above: The largest crowd ever at the annual St Patrick's Ball hosted by Irish Network Atlanta and the Hibernian Benevolent Society of Atlanta



HBSA member Devant Turner kicks off Irish tour of Atlanta's Oakland Cemetery



Outgoing and Incoming Irish Network Atlanta presidents Brian Boland and Jessica Houghton thank long-time Atlanta parade organizer Dave Fitzgerald

### Honorary Consuls at work on behalf of Ireland:

Right: John Young, our H Consul for N Carolina, was Grand Marshal for the Wilmington Parade  
Terry Delahunty, our H Consul for N and C Florida, with Granddaughter at the Winter Park Parade

Ian O'Flaherty, our H Consul for S Florida, with SFIACC's Sarah Fitzpatrick at event for Haiti in Miami





CG Stephens at the Atlanta and Knoxville Rotary Clubs. Beautiful *O Danny Boy* rendition sung by Jeremy Hathcoat of Atlanta's [Lisa Kelly Voice Academy](#) wowed attendees in Atlanta



CG Stephens met up with Knoxville's GAA hurling team after a breathtaking JigJam performance at nearby Dollywood



CG Stephens with other EU CGs and members of the EU Working Party on Transatlantic Relations (COTRA) at King Center for a briefing on the upcoming [MLK50 Forward](#) events to mark the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr.

## Irish News

An Taoiseach Leo Varadkar undertook a four-city St Patrick's trip to Austin, Oklahoma, Washington, D.C. and New York. In Washington he [met with President Trump](#) in the Oval office, attended the annual [Irish lunch on Capitol Hill](#) hosted by Speaker Paul Ryan, delivered remarks at the traditional [shamrock ceremony at the White House](#), was hosted for [breakfast by Vice President Pence](#), and gave [a foreign policy speech](#) to The Brookings Institution. See the great [video](#) of the Shamrock ceremony.

The Taoiseach's trip began with a visit to Choctaw Nation to [commemorate the help it provided to the Irish people](#) during the Great Famine and to announce a new scholarship programme. In New York, he announced an additional Government Grant of \$2.52 million to help build the new [Irish Arts Center](#) there and participated in [New York's St. Patrick's Day Parade](#).

President Michael D. Higgins's 2018 St. Patrick's Day Message can be heard [here](#).

Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade, Simon Coveney TD, expressed solidarity with the British government following the Salisbury attack and [outlined the Government's response](#) to the Dáil.

Ireland has had continuous presence on UN peace support operations since 1958. This Easter over 600 Irish women and men served in 19 crisis management and peace support missions worldwide.

The Minister of State for Equality, Immigration and Integration, David Stanton, opened his Department's "[Promoting the Political Engagement of Migrants 2018](#)" initiative meant to [increase migrant political participation](#).

Chaired by Ireland's Permanent Representative, Geraldine Byrne Nason, the 62<sup>nd</sup> Session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women concluded with unprecedented agreement on the [rights of rural women & girls](#).

The Minister of State for the Diaspora and International Development, Ciarán Cannon T.D., published a new Report on [Addressing Challenges Faced by Returning Irish Emigrants](#). The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade launched a [new website portal](#) with a range of resources to support returning emigrants.

Hainan Airlines plans to launch a [Beijing-Dublin service](#) commencing on the 12th of June 2018, the first direct service from Ireland to mainland China.

Congratulations to the Irish rugby team on their St. Patrick's Day [Grand Slam victory!](#)

[Pearse Lyons](#), one Ireland's most influential businessman in America, died at his home in Kentucky. Dr. Lyons grew his biotech livestock and poultry business from an initial \$10,000 investment in 1980 to over \$2.5 billion today.

We are deeply proud of the fact that the Florida House of Representatives adopted a [Resolution](#) honoring the relationship between the State of Florida & Ireland. Sincere thanks Representative Clay Ingram for this important initiative.

Culinary arts academics from the Waterford Institute of Technology prepared St. Patrick's themed banquets at Albany Tech, [Columbus Tech](#), Northwestern Tech and North Georgia Tech. See a lovely article and video on the Columbus Tech engagement prepared by the [Ledger-Enquirer](#).

Learn more about our connections with Tennessee from Consul General Stephens's St Patrick's Day op-ed in The Tennessean, "[Tennessee and Ireland share a unique bond](#)".



## Upcoming Events in the Southeast

On Tuesday, April 10<sup>th</sup>, at 4 p.m. in the Troy Moore Library at Georgia State University (on the 23<sup>rd</sup> floor of 25 Park Place downtown), Emory University's Nathan Suhr-Sytsma will deliver a free public lecture "Hurrah for Revolution: Irish Poetry in the Nigerian Postcolony".

Also on April 10<sup>th</sup>, College of Charleston's Irish and Irish American Studies Program will host a [public lecture](#) by Dr. Dominic Bryan of Queens University Belfast. His lecture is titled "Move the Statues and Take Down the Flags: The 'culture war' in Northern Ireland 20 years after the Peace Agreement".

On April 12<sup>th</sup> at 2.30 pm at [SCADShow](#) in Atlanta Irish activist Sinéad Burke and Teen Vogue Fashion Features Editor Jessica Andrews will explore how the fashion and design industries can amplify under-represented voices, share personal experiences, and discuss how all can use available tools and platforms for conversations that drive positive change.

[The Hibernian Benevolent Society of Atlanta](#) will meet on April 12<sup>th</sup> at 7pm at the Harp Irish Pub in Roswell.

Knoxville Irish Society invites you to join their April 14<sup>th</sup> KIS Second Saturday Eat & Greet, 3:00-6:00, 3131 Morris Avenue, Knoxville. For more information: [info@knoxvilleirish.com](mailto:info@knoxvilleirish.com).

The Charleston Music Hall presents the [4<sup>th</sup> Annual Celtic Night](#) on Thursday, April 19<sup>th</sup> at 7pm highlighting three local Irish/Celtic Bands and local Irish Tenor John Corless.

The South Florida Irish American Chamber of Commerce in partnership with the British American Chamber of Commerce are hosting an inaugural golf classic on April 20<sup>th</sup>, 8am-3pm at the Fort Lauderdale Golf and Country Club. For info contact: [sfitzpatrick@sfiacc.org](mailto:sfitzpatrick@sfiacc.org).

The [Charlotte Irish Connection](#) will hold its 2018 Annual General Meeting on April 29<sup>th</sup> 3:00-5:00pm at Tyber Creek pub in South End, Charlotte.

On Friday April 27<sup>th</sup>, [the O, Miami Poetry Festival](#), in partnership with The Betsy Hotel, Culture Ireland, and Poetry Ireland presents [a poetry reading](#) featuring three of Ireland's finest contemporary poets: [Tara Bergin](#), [Julie Morrissy](#), and [Paul Perry](#). Consul General Stephens and Ireland's Honorary Consul in Miami, Ian O'Flaherty, look forward to attending!

On Wednesday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>, The Canadian and Irish Consulates will jointly host a screening of Academy Award-nominated animated film [The Breadwinner](#), directed by Nora Twomey, at Atlanta's Plaza Theatre, followed by a panel discussion.

On Saturday, May 5<sup>th</sup>, [Gerry O'Connor](#) will provide an evening of traditional Irish music. More information and RSVP: [koko4note@yahoo.com](mailto:koko4note@yahoo.com)

*Be sure to send in your events for inclusion in the Newsletter! To: [carol.jordan@dfa.ie](mailto:carol.jordan@dfa.ie)*