

IRELAND NEWS

Consulate of Ireland Newsletter for U.S. Southwest

FÁILTE

Dear friends,

In 2016 the Consulate General of Ireland in Austin celebrates its first full year of operation. I would like to thank you all for your support and engagement with the Consulate over the past year. We are particularly grateful to friends and Irish communities Texas, Colorado, New Mexico, Kansas, Missouri and Louisiana who organised centenary events to commemorate the Easter Rising in 1916.

In this edition of the newsletter we will look back at some of the events we enjoyed and celebrated during the year.

We wish you, your families and friends all the very best this Christmas and in 2017.
Beannachtaí na Nollag agus h-Athbhliana.

Le gach dea-ghuí,

Adrian Farrell
Consul General of Ireland



Merry Christmas from Adrian, Michele, and Robert

A Christmas Message from President Higgins



RECENT EVENTS HIGHLIGHTS

1916: The Irish Rebellion Screenings

To conclude the 1916 Easter Rising centenary, Consul Farrell was delighted to speak at screenings of *1916: The Irish Rebellion* that were held in Dallas, TX (organised by Dallas Irish American Society), and Kansas City, MO (thanks to KC Irish Center, Notre Dame Alumni and World War I Museum). Thanks also to the Irish Cultural Museum in New Orleans, LA for screening the film.



Attendees at the documentary's screening in Dallas



Dr. John Fitzmorris of UNO introduces the documentary in New Orleans



At the screening in Kansas City



Consul General Meets with Mayor of Houston

On October 24, Consul General Farrell travelled to Houston to meet with Mayor Sylvester Turner. They discussed new areas of economic engagement between Ireland and Houston. Houston is Texas' largest city, and the fourth largest city in the United States. We hope to welcome Mayor Turner to Ireland in the near future!



Celtic Christmas Concerts

The annual Celtic Christmas concerts in Austin took place on 16/17 December to packed houses with some beautiful choral, music and dance performances.



***Finnegan's Wake* Group**

In November the Consul General joined members of the Finnegan's Wake reading group for an evening of great discussion on texts by James Joyce.



San Antonio Christmas Dinner

Consul General Farrell was delighted to attend the Harp & Shamrock Society's Christmas Dinner in San Antonio which concluded the Society's successful 50th birthday celebrations.



***Waltz Across Texas* Exhibition**

The Consulate is delighted to host the exhibition ‘Waltz Across Texas’ by Texas artist Gail Wendorf featuring scenes from dance halls around the state. The paintings will be displayed in the Consulate until January, and are for sale, with a portion of the proceeds benefiting the American Ireland Fund.



Community Christmas Receptions

On December 13 and 14 the Consulate hosted our annual Christmas receptions. We were delighted to welcome friends of the Consulate and representatives from the Irish communities in Dallas, Houston and San Antonio!

Model United Nations

The Consulate was pleased to welcome the Model United Nations group from Randolph High School in San Antonio for a discussion on Irish foreign policy with Consul General Farrell. We expect to meet many of these amazing students in the future as diplomats.



News from Ireland

On 9 November, the Taoiseach issued a statement to congratulate Donald Trump on his election as the 45th President of the United States and spoke soon afterwards to the President-elect by phone on bilateral Ireland-US relations. The Taoiseach also spoke with VP-elect Mike Pence.

The Taoiseach visited the U.S in November for a 3-day business programme in Silicon Valley and New York highlighting Ireland as a great location for innovation and investment.

The Taoiseach met with Pope Francis at the Vatican on 28 November. Pope Francis plans to visit Ireland in August 2018.

In an [article published by Independent.ie](#), Foreign Affairs Minister Charlie Flanagan wrote about Irish-American shared history and the role of immigration in shaping an enduring bond between the US and Ireland.

The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate in Ireland for November declined further to 7.3%, down from 9.1% in November 2015 according to latest figures from the Central Statistics Office (CSO) 72% of jobs in the past year were created outside Dublin.

The Government of Ireland and the Northern Ireland Executive joined forces to participate in the 15 November launch of Ireland's bid to win the right to host the Rugby World Cup in 2023.

On 21 November President Michael D. Higgins visited the Islamic Cultural Centre of Ireland and hosted a reception for delegates attending the World Jewish Congress in Dublin.

Welcome to Ireland's newest 2,000 citizens! Tánaiste and Minister for Justice, Frances Fitzgerald T.D. spoke at Citizenship Ceremonies in Dublin on 25 November to Ireland's new citizens.

Irish-Ethiopian actress Ruth Negga gained critical acclaim and a Golden Globe Best Actress nomination for her starring role in 'Loving'. Colin Farrell received a Golden Globe Best Actor nomination for 'Lobster'. 'Sing Street' set in 1980s Dublin, is up for Best Comedy or Musical film.

After adding to his UFC featherweight title, Irish Mixed Martial Artist professional, Conor McGregor, won the UFC's lightweight championship title, becoming the UFC's first ever two-weight champion.

STAY IN TOUCH WITH US

Website: www.dfa.ie/austin

Twitter: @IrelandCGAustin

Facebook: Embassy of Ireland USA

Newsletter: Please send any questions or comments to Robert.Teas@dfa.ie

