

Consulate General of Ireland

Newsletter for the U.S. Southeast

November 2016

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Message from the Consul General

As we recover from Hurricane Matthew and ready ourselves for November 8th, what better moment to investigate some great upcoming Irish cultural and sporting offerings.

In the next few days, IrishFest Atlanta promises to be bigger and better than ever, while Samuel Beckett events headlined by Barry McGovern will take over Emory University, the University of Georgia and Georgia Southern University. Great film, music, history and art events are also upcoming in Charleston, Charlotte and Miami.

Gaelic sports are also on the up following Knoxville Gaelic Athletic Club's first game last month and a major Clan Na nGael GAA exhibition planned for the middle of the month at Silverbacks Stadium, Atlanta.

Scroll down to page 6 see find out about all the glorious details.

Shane Stephens, Consul General of Ireland

Irish Business and Culture Around the Southeast



Wonderful *We Have Risen* 1916 centenary performance and [art installation](#) created for [Art on the Atlanta BeltLine](#) by Gateway Performance Productions

Emma Donoghue, author of international bestseller *Room* signed copies of her new book *The Wonder* at [SCADshow](#) in Atlanta



Prof Karen Steele delivers captivating lectures at Georgia State University and Agnes Scott College on the women of the 1916 Easter Rising: *“Revolution in the Rearview Mirror: Irish Women’s Memoirs of the Easter 1916 Rising”*; and, *“Forgotten Female Rebels of the Easter 1916 Rising”*



Consul General Stephens meets Mayor DeLoach and representatives of Savannah Economic Development Authority & Visit Savannah following their economic development mission to Ireland.

The Consul General proudly joined Savannah's Ancient Order of Hibernians and the wider Irish community for dedication of Irish limestone benches in Emmet Park.



Great evening with Irish Heritage Society in Sun City Hilton Head, with special thanks to President Tricia Connolly McLaren for hosting the Consul General's 1916 presentation.





Sara Totonchi of the Southern Center for Human Rights briefed EU Consulates on the operation of the Death Penalty in the Southeast at our offices. Ireland and the EU are opposed to the death penalty. Ireland is currently the Chair of local EU Consuls General group in Atlanta.

Consul General Stephens meeting Catriona Holmes of the [Ulster Scots Agency](#) at Tourism Ireland's stand at the Stone Mountain Highland Games in Atlanta.



Big shout out to Knoxville, Tennessee's newest sporting team, Knoxville Gaelic Athletic Club! Find them on Facebook and Twitter.

On 1 November Consul General Stephens discussed Irish investment in South Carolina with Governor Nikki Haley. He also spoke to the [Columbia Regional Business Report](#).



Irish News

The Government's [Budget 2017](#) was presented in the Dáil in mid-October by Finance Minister Michael Noonan and Public Expenditure Minister Paschal Donohoe. It takes a prudent approach while seeking to repair our public services after a period of underinvestment. It includes a package of [measures](#) to address the uncertainty and risk arising from Brexit.

Key [economic indicators](#) point to continued solid economic growth for Ireland. GDP is forecast to grow by 4.2% this year and by 3.5% in 2017.

Minister for Finance has also declared Ireland's interest in becoming the location for the offices of the [European Banking Authority](#). As part of the negotiations associated with the UK's decision to withdraw from the EU it will be necessary for the European Banking Authority to relocate to an EU Member State from its current location in London.

Following British Prime Minister Theresa May's announcement that she intends to trigger Article 50 by March 2017, on October 2nd the Taoiseach outlined how we will intensify [engagement and preparation for the Brexit negotiations](#). The initiatives announced included an all-island Civic Dialogue to seek broad based views on all-island implications.

On October 12th, The Taoiseach, the Tánaiste and Ministers Flanagan and Murphy communicated Ireland's priorities in meetings with the EU's [Chief Brexit Negotiator, Michel Barnier](#) who will lead the EU's technical negotiations with the UK once the British Government has triggered Article 30.

On November 2nd the Taoiseach and Minister Flanagan hosted a conference marking the start of the government's [All-Island Civic Dialogue on Brexit](#). The event was attended by over 250 participants from all across the island of Ireland, including 75 participants from Northern Ireland and the border area. Minister Flanagan has highlighted four key outcomes from the dialogue on Brexit thus far i) Government to host a further conference early in 2017 and host several sector-specific dialogues, ii) Public submissions sought as part of continuing dialogue process, iii) Taoiseach and Ministers to draw upon messages from dialogue

participants in contacts with EU partners and with the UK government, and iv) Minister sees need for all-island dimension to Brexit response as “crystal clear”, highlights importance of North South Ministerial Council.

Minister Flanagan represented Ireland at a Foreign Affairs Council meeting in Luxembourg where he joined EU Foreign Ministers in agreeing [common positions](#) on Syria, Tunisia and the EU Global Strategy. Tánaiste Frances Fitzgerald also met with EU partners to discuss the [migration crisis](#).

[US Secretary of State](#) John Kerry visited Ireland on October 30th to receive the Tipperary Peace Prize and to discuss with the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade a range of issues including Northern Ireland, the UK’s exit from the EU and the situation in Syria.

The Government welcomed the signing of the landmark [EU-Canada Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement](#) (CETA). Minister Flanagan said “I strongly believe that the conclusion of this CETA deal is in the best interests of Ireland, the EU and Canada. It is expected that this agreement, which will eliminate virtually all tariffs in bilateral trade between Canada and the EU, could lead to an increase in annual trade of up to €11 billion per year.

Minister Flanagan announced €7.5 million in [humanitarian funding for Syrians](#) which will be dispersed through EU, UN and Red Cross. In response to the [impact of Hurricane Matthew on Haiti](#), the Government also committed €1.7 million in humanitarian funding through NGO partners.

Interesting highlights from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade [Annual Report for 2015](#) include the visits of the Prime Ministers of China and India, the visit of the Prince of Wales and the Fresh Start Agreement for Northern Ireland.

The US was named the [highest growth market](#) for Enterprise Ireland clients in 2015.

Minister for Transport, Tourism & Sport, Shane Ross, T.D. published, for consultation, a draft national policy framework on [alternative fuels infrastructure](#) for transport in Ireland.

The latest official travel data from the Central Statistics Office (CSO) showed a [12% increase in overseas visits to Ireland](#) for the first nine months of 2016 compared to the same period of 2015.

[Three Irish hotels](#) were named among the best 10 in the world by Condé Nast: the Lodge at Ashford Castle and Waterford Castle, and Ballyfin Demesne taking the #1 spot.

The monthly Global Irish Newsletter of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade is a great resource for news and developments relevant to the Global Irish everywhere. You can access or sign up to receive it at <https://www.dfa.ie/global-irish/staying-in-touch/newsletter/>

Upcoming Events in the Southeast

Co-sponsored by the Consulate, Irish actor Barry McGovern will headline several events celebrating the launch of the fourth and final volume of [The Letters of Samuel Beckett](#): Nov 5th, 7:30 pm at [Emory University](#); Nov 7th, 7.30pm at the [University of Georgia](#) in Athens; and Nov 8th, 7pm at [Georgia Southern University](#) in Statesboro. Ireland’s Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade produced the accompanying 19-panel exhibition that will be on display at Emory and the University of Georgia.

The [full schedule of events](#) is available for the fourth annual IrishFest Atlanta hosted [by Irish Traditions Atlanta](#) November 4-5 at the Holiday Inn Perimeter, 4386 Chamblee Dunwoody Rd, Atlanta, GA 30341. This family-friendly festival features a weekend of exceptional concerts, dance and theatre. The Consulate is proud to have also helped arrange the programme of Short Films from the Irish Film Institute and to have co-sponsored the appearance of acclaimed Irish guitarist and song-writer John Doyle.

Irish Network Atlanta is sponsoring Clan na nGael's inaugural Hall of Fame and annual player awards on Friday, Nov 4, 7.30 pm, Holiday Inn Perimeter. For tickets and more information Info@IrishNetworkAtlanta.com

The movie, *The Beauty Queen of Leenane*, set in the mountains of Connemara, runs at [Charleston's Pure Theatre](#) Oct 28-Nov 19.

On Nov 9, [In the Name of the Father](#), College of Charleston's signature show from "A Week of Irish Film", will run at Charleston's [Terrace Theatre](#). Free and open to the public.

John Doyle will play in Charlotte on Nov 11, 7.30pm at [Great Aunt Stella Center](#), sponsored by Charlotte Irish Connection and Charlotte Folk Society.

Charlotte GAA will hold Gaelic Football and Hurling demonstrations at the [Highland Games & Scotch Irish Festival](#) Nov 12 at Blue Eagle Academy in Clover, SC.

[Dr. Patrick Wadden](#) of Belmont Abbey College will speak on Nov 14 at Charlotte Catholic High School about the 100th anniversary of the 1916 Easter Rising.

Clan Na nGael Atlanta invites you to come out for free [GAA exhibition games](#) on Nov 12th at Silverbacks Stadium-- Gaelic Football 5pm, Camogie 6pm, Hurling 7pm. The men's hurling fall league final will take place on Nov 5th at Norwood Elementary in Roswell 4pm, supporters welcomed. And Kid's Gaelic Football Practice for all ages will be held on Sundays at Iverson Park Atlanta, 3pm --contact Gerry Hughes, 917-340-2837, or Ray Tracey 404-429-9488.

On November 15, College of Charleston's Irish and Irish American Studies Program will host a free [lecture](#) titled: "'Being so Clever as That: The Power and Agency of Women during The Great Irish Famine (An Gorta Mór)", 7pm Addlestone Library.

With funding assistance from Culture Ireland, several upcoming Irish cultural events will take place in Miami:

- [Helen O'Leary](#) exhibiting 'Rhyme and Reason 2016' at Art Basel Miami
- [Mother's Tankstation](#) presenting at Art Basel Miami Beach
- [Gibbons & Nicholas](#) presenting works by Irish artists at Context Art Miami

The 2016 [Southern Region Oireachtas \(Irish dance\) Competition](#) will take place in Baltimore December 2-4.