



# Consulate of Ireland Newsletter for U.S. Southwest NEWS & Current Events

## Failte—Welcome!

### Summer 2018

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A chairde, dear friends,

Welcome to the summer 2018 edition of the newsletter. We're always delighted to include information on events in your area in the newsletter; please send your submissions to us for the next edition. Don't forget the two great Irish festivals this summer in CO and Kansas City: Colorado Irish Festival: [www.coloradoirishfestival.com](http://www.coloradoirishfestival.com) (13-15 July) and Kansas City Irish Festival: [www.kcirishfest.com](http://www.kcirishfest.com) (31 August-2 September).

Wishing you an enjoyable summer!

Is mise le meas,

Adrian Farrell

Consul General





# Regional highlights

## GAA-Battle of the cities

After months of training and preparation the Texas GAA State Championships took place Houston on 16 June. Players from the Houston Gaels, Dallas GAA, Austin Celtic Cowboys and San Antonio GAC braved the intense summer heat in competition for the Texas State trophies. Congratulations to the Austin teams for their victories on the day and many thanks to the Houston Gaels for hosting the tournament!



# An Afternoon in Dublin..Texas

In 2005 Dublin (TX) was designated by the Governor as the Irish Capital of Texas. Consul General Farrell -an (Irish) Dubliner- was delighted to meet with new (Texas) Dublin friends on 23 June. During his visit he cut the ribbon on the new Things Celtic store in the heart of Dublin, TX (also online at [www.thingsceltic.com](http://www.thingsceltic.com)) - congratulations and best wishes to owner Lenora Davidson! While in town, he also meet with Mary Yantis from the Dublin Historical Museum and learned about the city's first Irish settlers in the 1850s and presented a book on (his) Dublin to city librarian Adina Dunn. He also exchanged his Dublin (Ireland) GAA top with Dublin High School football coach Bob Cervetto (...Go Lions and Up the Dubs!) - photo on page 1.



# Visit to Corpus Christi, TX

CG Farrell met with political, business and community contacts in Corpus Christi on 27 June. He discussed Ireland's historic ties to the city and the Gulf Coast region with Mayor Joe McComb at Corpus Christi City Hall, before discussing the strong performance of the Irish and Corpus Christi economies with local businesspeople and City Councillors at a meeting hosted by the Corpus Christi Regional Economic Development Corporation (many thanks to Iain Vasey for hosting).



A special highlight of the visit was meeting with the small but very active Irish community in the city. Ireland is proud to have such great Ambassadors as Mr Alan Stoner who have worked (and continue to work) to promote Ireland in Corpus Christi and the region. Go raibh maith agaibh! Many thanks to Alan, Fr. Higgins and friends for the very warm welcome!



# Choctaw Nation campus opens

Ireland owes an eternal debt of gratitude to the Choctaw people for their compassion and kindness to the Irish people in 1847 during the Famine. In March Taoiseach Leo Varadkar travelled to Durant, OK to meet with Choctaw Chief Gary Patton and to thank the Choctaw on behalf of the people of Ireland. On 26 June CG Farrell was delighted to attend the opening of the new Choctaw headquarters which brings together many of the Nation's administrative, health and education services under one roof in an amazing new campus. *Imola* (best wishes) to our dear Choctaw friends in their new premises!



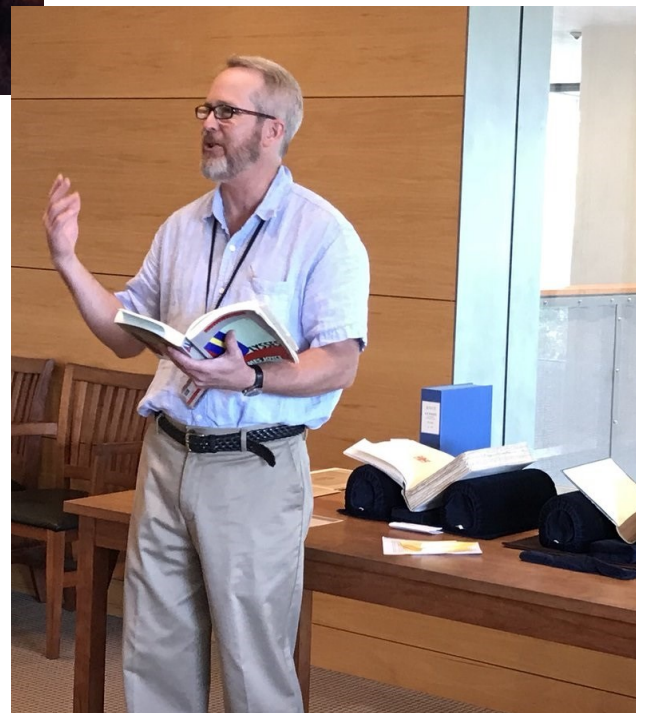
# Bloomsday

Bloomsday celebrates the legacy of James Joyce and in particular his work *Ulysses*. The Consulate hosted its inaugural Bloomsday with readings and a reception assisted by our great partners including the Finnegans Wake Joyce reading group, the Harry Ransom Center at the University of Texas in Austin and Malvern Books. Bloomsday was also celebrated in Kansas City, Houston Tulsa and cities across the region.



Top Left: Kansas City

Below/Left: Austin



# Spotlight on New Mexico

On June 8, 2018, members of the Irish-American Society of New Mexico (IAS) were entertained by a reading from Galway poet Kevin Higgins.

Kevin is co-organizer of Over the Edge literary events in Galway, Ireland. He teaches poetry workshops at Galway Arts Centre, Creative Writing at Galway Technical Institute, and is Creative Writing Director for the NUI Galway Summer School. He has published four collections of poetry with Salmon Poetry, Co. Clare. Kevin was visiting Albuquerque as part of his New Mexico Reading Tour, sponsored by Culture Ireland. He also performed in Angel Fire and Santa Fe.

Kevin's performance for the IAS was both incisive and humorous. He is a wonderful reader and his comic timing is impeccable. — *Thanks to Ellen Dowling, President, IAS New Mexico for filing this report*



Click [here](#) for more information on IAS – New Mexico!

# Celebrating Pride Month

Pride Month is celebrated in Irish cities and towns and Ireland is proud to defend and promote LGBTQ equality around the world. In June the Consulate was delighted to host a reception for friends in the Austin/central Texas LGBTQ community to celebrate Pride month and the third anniversary of marriage equality in Ireland (photo below left). CG Farrell also met with Corpus Christi LGBT+ during his visit to the city (photo above left) and with Troy Stephenson of Equality Texas in Oklahoma City (photo right). Happy Pride!





# New Texas Rose



Best wishes to Kimberly Corser, the 2018 Texas Rose of Tralee!

# Thank You Grace!

Thanks to Grace Healy, who undertook work experience at the Consulate in June and helped with this edition of the newsletter!

# Congratulations

Congratulations to Nolan Maloney of Austin Ancient Order of Hibernians & Kristen Mareno, who recently got engaged in Kinsale, Ireland! (Left)

Best wishes to the Consulate's own Robert Teas and Elizabeth Sohns on their engagement! (Right)



# Kevin takes to the stage

The San Antonio Harp & Shamrock Society's Irishman of the Year Kevin Dowd (right, seated) recently starred as President Ulysses S. Grant in the play *Twain and Grant: A Meeting of the Minds*.

Congratulations Kevin on a great performance!



# Remembering RFK

Ambassador Dan Mulhall spoke at a ceremony recalling the life and legacy of Robert Francis Kennedy, 50 years after his assassination in 1968. The ceremony took place at Arlington Cemetery and was attended by Ethel Kennedy, widow of Bobby Kennedy, and former President Bill Clinton.

Ambassador Mulhall highlighted Robert Kennedy's Irish roots and read a quote from a speech the Senator gave several years before his death citing the "equality and brotherhood of man" and the need for people everywhere to seek out "unity and mediation of disputes."



# Global Ireland 2025

Ireland currently has 80 diplomatic Missions around the world staffed by 678 diplomats. In June Taoiseach Leo Varadkar announced plans to expand this network with the opening of seven new Irish Embassies in the Ukraine, Philippines, Morocco and Liberia and with Consulates in Los Angeles, Frankfurt (Germany) and Cardiff (Wales). The new Missions will broaden Ireland's global reach by expanding existing and creating new international political, economic and trade relationships and serving Irish citizens abroad. The Global Ireland 2025 initiative will also strengthen staffing at existing Missions: the Irish Consulate in Austin is delighted to announce the appointment of a new Vice Consul to the Austin team (more information in the next edition of our newsletter).



# News from Ireland

In early June, the [Taoiseach visited Northern Ireland](#) for engagements in Belfast and Newry to hear the views of business and community sectors on a range of current issues, including a visit to the Orange Heritage Museum, the first such visit by a serving Irish Taoiseach.

Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs Simon Coveney issued a [statement](#) on the publication of UK proposals in Brexit negotiations, saying “It remains vital that a legally-binding backstop is agreed to provide certainty that, in all circumstances, a hard border will be avoided.” President of the European Commission Jean-Claude Juncker and European Chief (Brexit) Negotiator Michel Barnier visited Ireland where they [underscored the backing of Ireland](#) by the other EU Member States.

The Tánaiste [Mr. Coveney met with Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu](#) during a visit to the Middle East and Cyprus, stating: “We had an open and frank dialogue, discussing possibilities and concerns, issues we agreed on and issues we did not. As in my meetings earlier today with other key Israeli figures, and with Palestinian leaders, my focus was primarily on looking ahead to areas where we hope to make a difference.”

President Michael D. Higgins led a commemoration of [60 years of Irish involvement in UN Peacekeeping](#) operations, remarking: “While this ceremony will be celebratory for all Irish people.... for some it will also be poignant, as we commemorate and honour those who paid the ultimate price in the cause of peace.”

Following the US Administration’s imposition of tariffs, EU Ambassadors based in Washington, including Ireland’s Dan Mulhall, published an [open letter on trade](#) in the [Washington Post](#) on the trade and investment relationship between the EU and the U.S. EU Ambassador David Sullivan, also spoke to this theme on [Fox Business](#).

Ireland’s CRH/Oldcastle finalized a [\\$3.5 billion investment](#) in Kansas.



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