

Consulate General of Ireland

Newsletter for the U.S. Southeast

December 2017

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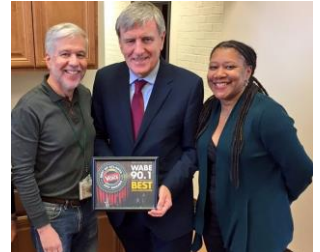
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Ambassador Mulhall communicates Irish Advantage during packed visit to Atlanta

(Above celebrating pitch donation with Atlanta GAA, speaking to the World Affairs Council and with local NPR hosts at WABE)

Message from the Consul General

A chairde,

After the Ambassador's visit to Atlanta, the Team Ireland conference in Dublin and consultations at our Embassy in Washington, I am very much looking forward to spending the Christmas season in Atlanta, Birmingham and other parts of the South.

This month's Newsletter looks back on the Ambassador's visit to Atlanta and profiles December's events.

Be sure to click the links in the Irish News section to media coverage of the Ambassador's visit including his remarks at Emory University, his CNN interview and conversation with Rose Scott on WABE. We also recall the significance for the Irish community of Oldcastle's donation of land. This will soon become the first Irish-owned GAA pitch in the Southeast and could become the base of an Irish community centre.

December will be packed with wonderful events. Art lovers should also be on the lookout for several outstanding Irish exhibits in Miami in early December, which have been supported by Culture Ireland.

I wish you and your families the very best for a Merry Christmas and happy holiday season.

Shane Stephens December 1, 2017

Irish Business and Culture Around the Southeast

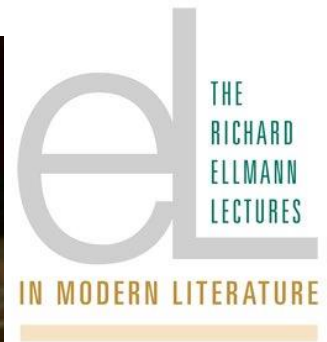
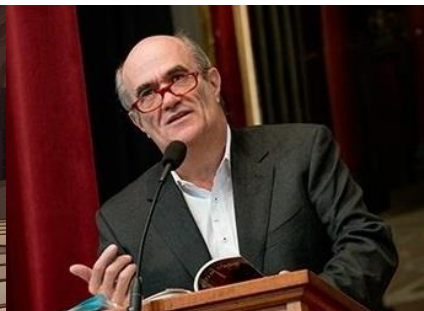


A few highlights of the Atlanta visit of Ambassador Dan Mulhall and Mrs. Greta Mulhall: exploring mutual economic opportunity with Governor Nathan Deal; speaking on Yeats at Emory University; discussing Brexit and tax on CNN International; engaging with leading Irish companies; and visiting Martin Luther King's birthplace (with Mrs. Mulhall) & Fr O'Reilly's tomb in the Shrine of the Immaculate Conception with the Hibernian Benevolent Society of Atlanta





The Atlanta Consular team was delighted to welcome the Ambassador on his first visit to Atlanta. L-R: Consul General Shane Stephens, Consular and Administrative Officer Sondra Reed, and Research and Communications Officer Carol Jordan, and Ambassador Mulhall



Above: Renowned author [Colm Tóibín](#) delivered the prestigious Richard Ellmann Lectures at Emory University. He focused on “Writers and their Fathers: Wilde, Yeats and Joyce



“[EPIC, the Irish Immigration Museum](#) in Dublin tells the story of the people who left the island of Ireland...how they influenced and shaped the world...a story of 10 million epic journeys.” The Museum’s founder, [Neville Isdell](#), spoke on his inspiration for the Museum at the Irish Chamber of Atlanta.



Above: CG Stephens congratulated Teresa Finley, Chair of IrishFest Atlanta, recognizing her 5 year leadership of this exceptional event. The CG also enjoyed the annual tea with Atlanta's Hibernian Benevolent Society and appreciated the support of DeKalb Commissioner Nancy Jester and Brookhaven Mayor John Ernst



After Ambassador Mulhall marked the handover of land from Oldcastle to Atlanta Clan na nGael GAA, Rockland GAA's Tony Donnelly presented a generous donation to the development of the project. The land will soon be converted into GAA pitches. ATL GAA and groups including Irish Network Atlanta are also working with the long term aspiration of building a cultural centre for people with a connection to, or interest in, Irish life.



Fascinating visit to the Georgia World War I Commission & Belgian stands at the Georgia Veterans Day Association 2017 Veterans Day Festival in Atlanta

CG Stephens enjoyed the Taoiseach's inspiring remarks at the Team Ireland conference in Croke Park in Dublin



In Miami, Ireland's Honorary Consul, Ian O'Flaherty, was on hand to celebrate the 1-year anniversary of the South Florida Irish American Chamber of Commerce with its president Seán Murray and Vice President Conor Hayes

Irish News

[The Taoiseach, Leo Varadkar T.D, has appointed](#) the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade, Simon Coveney, as Tánaiste (Deputy Prime Minister). This will enhance Mr Coveney's role in the Brexit negotiations currently underway. Also, Heather Humphreys has been appointed as the Minister for Business, Enterprise and Innovation, and Josepha Madigan was appointed as the Minister for Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

The Taoiseach encouraged citizen involvement in a new citizens dialogue on the [Future of Europe](#). A website, www.dfa.ie/eu, twitter hashtag (#futureofeuropa) and [video](#) have been set up to facilitate the process.

[The Taoiseach traveled to the US West Coast](#) on a 3-day programme to Seattle, Silicon Valley and San Francisco with a focus on growing trade, investment and tourism opportunities between Ireland and the US, and on highlighting Ireland's priorities in the context of Brexit and other international developments.

During a [4-day visit to Washington, D.C. and New York](#), the Minister for Finance and Public Expenditure & Reform, Paschal Donohoe TD met with key members of the US Administration on a wide range of issues, delivered a public address to the Brookings Institute on the challenges of Brexit, and met with business leaders, IDA clients and key media outlets. Look back on his presentation at Brookings [here](#).

During a packed 3-day visit to Atlanta, Ambassador Dan Mulhall undertook a range of media interviews and speaking engagements. See his interview on [CNN International's Quest Means Business](#); hear his interview on [WABE's Closer Look](#) with Rose Scott; listen to his [speech on Yeats at Emory University](#); and read about his remarks in [Global Atlanta](#) to the World Affairs Council monthly luncheon programme.

On November 30th, Atlanta-based Equifax announces another 150 jobs for its Dublin IT Centre as the company is set to more than [double its Irish workforce](#) a year after opening the facility.

The Taoiseach and Minister Coveney met with a [Sinn Féin delegation in Dublin](#) on the political situation in Northern Ireland where they underlined the importance of effective power-sharing institutions in N.I. for implementation of the Good Friday Agreement.

On Sunday November 12th, the Taoiseach, Leo Varadkar, took part in [the annual Remembrance Day ceremonies](#) in Enniskillen.

Minister Coveney issued a [Statement](#) following North Korea's latest intercontinental ballistic missile, affirming that "Ireland fully supports the international sanctions regime against North Korea, including the EU autonomous restrictive measures."

On a visit to the Horn of Africa region, Minister Coveney announced further [humanitarian support](#) of €11 stating: "I am deeply concerned that, today...over 24 million people in this region do not have sufficient food to feed themselves or their families. These people's lives hang in the balance..." Ireland has provided €127 million in humanitarian aid to the Horn of Africa region since 2012.

The Minister for Education and Skills, Richard Bruton T.D. launched his plan to make Ireland the [European leader in STEM education](#) (Science, Technology, Math, Engineering) by 2026.

Upcoming Events in the Southeast

With funding assistance from Culture Ireland, there will be a great presence of Irish art in Miami in December:

- [Gibbons & Nicholas](#), with an exhibition of works by Irish artists Peter Burns, Anita Groener and Helen O'Leary at Context Art Miami, at Context Art Maimi, Herald Plaza, Booth C307, 5-10 Dec
- [Kerlin Gallery](#), at Art Basel, MBCC Galleries section, Booth D20, 6-10 Dec
- [Mother's Tankstation Limited](#), at Art Basel, MBCC Nova section, Booth N26, 7-10 Dec

Irish Network Atlanta will host its [first annual Christmas Party](#) on Dec 9th, 7pm at Meehan's Public House in Sandy Springs.

The Knoxville Irish Society holds [free Beginner Irish Language Classes](#) on Saturdays, and also invites you to their regular [monthly social gathering](#), the next one on Dec 9th.

The South Florida Irish American Chamber of Commerce will host a [Christmas Social](#) on Dec 9th, 6pm at John Martin's Irish Pub.

Raleigh GAA's annual [Christmas Dinner Party](#) is Dec 9th, 6.30pm at Raleigh Beer Garden Marquee.

Charlotte Irish Connection will host their [annual Irish Christmas Party](#), with special visit from Santy, on Dec 10th at Tyber Creek Pub 2-6pm.

The Taylor Music Group hosts its annual [Celtic Christmas Concert in Charleston](#) on Dec 11 at 7pm, with guest stars guitarist John Doyle, music duo Bedlam and the Three Sopranos.

[Christmas with the Celts show](#), which has aired on 222 PBS channels across the US, Canada and BBC in Ireland, will be live at [City Winery Atlanta](#) on Dec 11 and [City Winery Nashville](#) on Dec 12.

The Celtic Company presents Atlanta's 26th [Celtic Christmas Concert](#) Dec 16 and 17 at Georgia State's Rialto Center for the Arts. Don't miss this essential element in Atlanta's annual Irish calendar!

Georgia Public Broadcasting will again be among public television stations nationally to broadcast the Emmy Award-winning *A Southern Celtic Christmas Concert* which celebrates Christmas traditions of the Celtic lands and their connections with similar traditions of the American South. GPB will air the production at 7:00pm on Christmas Eve and again at 4:00am on Christmas day.

For inclusion in the Newsletter, be sure to send us your event information, to carol.jordan@dfa.ie