

Consulate General of Ireland

Newsletter for the U.S. Southeast

October 2017

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Ambassador Mulhall introduces Ian O'Flaherty as our Honorary Consul in Miami

Message from the Consul General

A chairde,

On September 5, Ambassador Mulhall and I travelled to Miami to announce [the appointment of Ian O'Flaherty](#) as our [Honorary Consul for South Florida](#) and upgrade our relationship with Florida. The appointment came in time for the launch of Aer Lingus's Miami-Dublin route and just days before Hurricane Irma. During his baptism of fire, Ian O'Flaherty played a full part in our work to assist Irish visitors and residents affected by the hurricane.

The Ambassador's meeting with business leaders, hosted by the South Florida Irish American Chamber of Commerce, enhanced understanding of the opportunities that Ireland and South Florida, respectively, provide as gateways to the EU and the Americas. Word of our links golf courses also spread quickly following the Ambassador's presentation.

In recent days, the Irish Rowing squad has been winning friends and a haul of medals for Ireland, and Skibbereen, at the World Championship in Sarasota, Florida. They responded to a warm welcome from the local Irish community, with the humour and grace that they are famous for.

October will be busy in Atlanta, starting with today's Atlanta vs Ireland [FINTECH battle](#) and our special screening of [In the Name of Peace: John Hume in America](#) on Saturday October 14.

Shane Stephens October 3, 2017

Irish Business and Culture Around the Southeast

Ambassador Dan Mulhall and Consul General Stephens introduce Ireland's new Honorary Consul to the Irish community, local authorities, diplomatic corps and other friends of Ireland in Miami.





Ambassador Mulhall addresses business leaders at breakfast hosted by South Florida Irish American Chamber of Commerce (SFIACC)

SFIACC President Seán Murray and Board member Sarah Fitzpatrick welcome the Ambassador to Miami

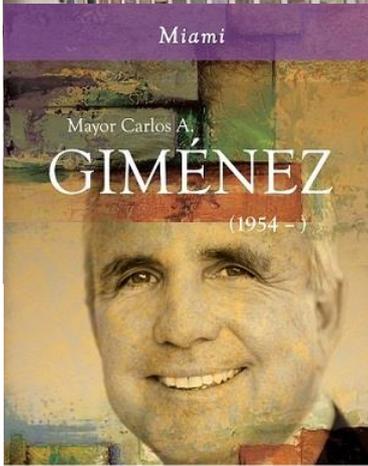
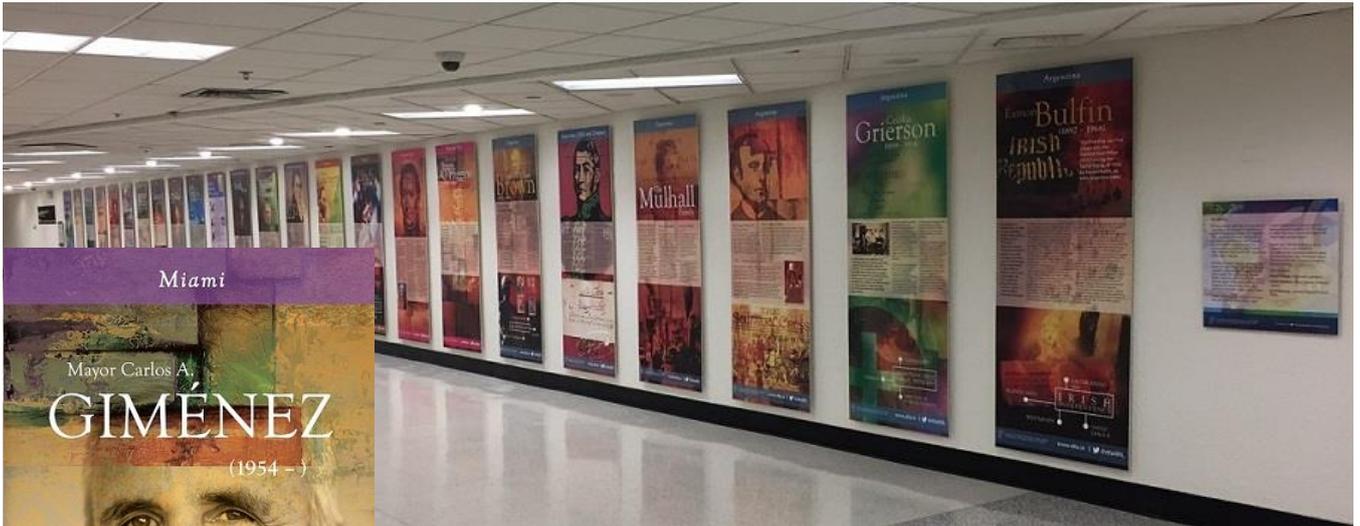


Discussion with John Hay on the work of Oldcastle, which employs 40,000 Americans

Ambassador Mulhall, CG Stephens and Honorary Consul O'Flaherty help Aer Lingus launch its new Dublin-Miami route



The Irish in Latin America Exhibition at Miami International Airport



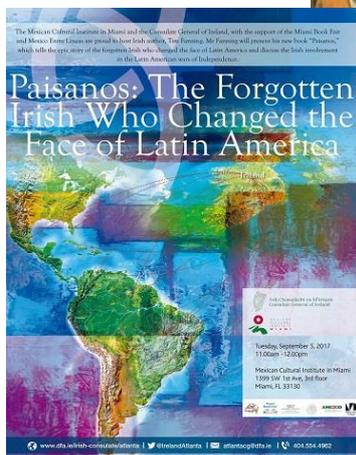
Carlos A. Giménez is the Mayor of Miami-Dade County, the largest local government in the southeastern United States. He is responsible for leadership of an administration with over 26,000 employees that includes both Miami International Airport and PortMiami. Mayor Giménez has both Latin American and Irish roots and has initiated a new phase of civic collaboration between Miami-Dade County and Ireland.



An Bliain Ghnóthaí Eanáir 2017
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We presented the U.S. premiere of this traveling exhibition that celebrates the story of Irish men and women who contributed to the history of great Latin American nations. It can be visited until November 5th in Miami International Airport's Concourse F (pre-security), First Floor between Doors 11 & 12.

The Mexican Cultural Institute in Miami hosted Irish author Tim Fanning for a lecture on The Irish in Latin America. At Books & Books in Coral Gables, he also read from his new book "Paisanos", an epic story of the forgotten Irish who changed the face of Latin America. His visit was sponsored by the Consulate General and Aer Lingus.



Business, Sport and Education in North Carolina



Irish company **eXpd8** launched **Thread**, a new legal case management software, on Sept. 18 in Microsoft's Charlotte Campus.

R-L: North Carolina Honorary Consul John Young, Thread CEO Liam Mullaney, Chairman Declan Branagan, Market Dev Sabina Horgan and Dir Bus. Dev, Brett Wolfe



Congratulations to Charlotte's senior Gaelic football women's team on winning the North American USGAA championship in San Francisco.





CG Stephens delivered a guest lecture at University of North Carolina Chapel Hill's Center for European Studies. Here he meets with the center's Executive Director Kathleen Lindner Shanahan, staff and students.



Delightful celebration of Ireland at the 22nd annual "Return to the Green" Irish Festival in Greenville, South Carolina, with a crowd of over 2000.

At left with CG Stephens: the Greenville Gael's Mark Knight, South Carolina Rose of Tralee, Ellersie McCue, and festival organizer Marty Flynn.





Another lovely Sunday in the Park at the historic Irish plot in Oakland Cemetery hosted by Hibernian Benevolent Society of Atlanta



[Rowing Ireland takes double gold at World Rowing Championships](#)

Honorary Consul Ian O'Flaherty joined crowds of delighted Irish supporters in celebrating Ireland's amazing performance in Sarasota. Here he is pictured here with gold medal winners Mark O'Donovan & Shane O'Driscoll (LWT Men's Pair) and Paul O'Donovan (LWT Men's Single Sculls)



Irish News

Taoiseach Leo Varadkar and Foreign Affairs Minister Simon Coveney TD hosted the third plenary meeting of the [All-Island Civic Dialogue on Brexit](#). Since its Nov 2016 launch, views have been heard from over 1500 civic society and industry representatives from across the island about the challenges presented by Brexit.

[The Taoiseach met with British Prime Minister Theresa May](#) in London last week for Brexit discussions on restoring the Assembly in Northern Ireland, maintaining the Common Travel Area, protecting the Peace Process, and avoiding a return to any border.

Minister Coveney has expressed [condolences](#) following the attack in Las Vegas and the [earthquake](#) in Mexico. He also issued a [statement](#) on the Parsons Green Terrorist incident in London.

The Minister also convened the first meeting of the [Brexit Stakeholder Forum](#) in Iveagh House, bringing together stakeholders from business, the unions, state agencies, political parties and other experts. The Forum will meet every 4-6 weeks and help to inform the Government's position during the Article 50 negotiations on the UK's withdrawal from the EU.

[Minister Coveney addressed the UN General Assembly](#) on Ireland's foreign policy priorities, underlining that today's challenges can only be overcome by working together. On behalf of Ireland, he signed [the UN's ground-breaking Treaty](#) on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

The Taoiseach presented Ireland's bid to the World Rugby Council for the right to host the 2023 World Cup, for which Teresa May voiced her support. Check out the [Ireland at its Best video](#).

Taoiseach Leo Varadkar and Tánaiste Frances Fitzgerald opened [LinkedIn's new 17,650 sq m HQ](#) for Europe, Middle East and Africa, the first facility LinkedIn has built outside the US, an €85 million investment, for its workforce in Ireland, which has increased from 3 employees to 1,200 in seven years.

The credit ratings agency [Moody's upgraded Ireland's sovereign rating](#) based on the strong growth of the Irish economy, the near-achievement of a balanced budget and the ongoing decline in public indebtedness.

The CSO (Central Statistics Office) reported that [Ireland's population is estimated to have grown](#) by 52,900 persons in the year to April 2017, to almost 4.8 million, the largest annual increase since 2008.

The Port of Cork's Commercial Manager, Captain Michael McCarthy, indicated that [more than 100 cruise liners will come to Cork Harbour](#) next year, an increase of almost a third on this year's number.

The Government published ["Ireland 2040 – Our Plan"](#) for its final round of public review of long-term strategic planning framework for Ireland's future growth and prosperity.

Minister Flanagan informed EU colleagues that [Ireland will accept 600 refugees in 2018](#) and outlined the progress to date under the Irish Refugee Protection Programme.

Minister of State Joe McHugh launched the redesigned dúchas.ie website (www.duchas.ie) and a digitized version of the National Folklore Collection's Photographic Collection. Minister for Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, Heather Humphreys TD, announced major acquisitions of material from the [Yeats family collection](#) at a Sotheby's London auction.

The 2018-2019 [Fulbright Scholarship Awards](#) application period is now open to study, research & teach in the USA! Deadline is 31 Oct.

Upcoming Events in the Southeast

Today Consul General Stephens will join the Metro Atlanta Chamber in launching a [FINTECH battle](#) between 3 firms from Ireland and 3 firms from Atlanta. The event will take place simultaneously at The Garage at Tech Square, Atlanta, and Dublin Business School.

With support from Culture Ireland, Tommy Fleming will appear in concert on October 3rd at [City Winery Atlanta](#) and on October 6th at [City Winery Nashville](#).

College of Charleston is sponsoring an Irish Film Week, October 11-13 with “The Field”, “In the Name of the Father” and “The Wind that Shakes the Barley”. [Free and open to the public.](#)

The Consulate is hosting a major special screening of *In the Name of Peace: John Hume in America* at the Plaza Theatre on Saturday, October 14th, 4:30-7:00. A Q&A with Director Maurice Fitzpatrick, Consul General Stephens and special guests will follow. [Click here for tickets.](#) This film celebrates the interconnections between the U.S. and Ireland that have essential to the successes of the Northern Ireland Peace Process. It highlights the role that President Carter played in revising the U.S. policy on Northern Ireland and celebrates John Hume’s decades of commitment to the nonviolence he learned from Martin Luther King Jr. Due to illness, John Hume is no longer able to speak for himself as he would wish, but the film is fully supported by his wife and sponsored by the Irish Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. The film includes interviews with presidents Carter and Clinton. [Click here](#) for Documentary Trailer, password “humetrailer”.

The island of Ireland will once again be well represented in Atlanta’s 45th Annual [Stone Mountain Highland Games](#). From October 20-22, Look out for the Tourism Ireland stand, presentations by the Ulster Scots Agency and the return of Stonewall, a fantastic Scots Irish Folk Group from Armagh, NI.

The year’s better than ever IrishFest Atlanta 2018 is nearly with us. Check out the great line-up of performances, workshops and cultural activities to be enjoyed from Nov 3rd-4th at the Doubletree by Hilton Atlanta Perimeter Dunwoody: <http://irishfestatlanta.org/>

World renowned [Irish writer Colm Tóibín](#) (author of Brooklyn) will deliver Richard Ellmann Lectures at Emory University Nov. 12-14, 2017. These are free and open to the public but will tickets will run out fast.

[Celtic Thunder’s US Symphony tour](#) will include Miami, Sarasota, Clearwater and Jacksonville, FL Nov 6-18, and Atlanta with the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra on Nov 19.