



# 9th Annual Ireland Network Chicago Ball

SATURDAY  
FEBRUARY 18, 2012

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# Welcome to IN-Chicago's 9th Annual Ball

Welcome! Your attendance here and your support for this gathering are very much appreciated, as is the unprecedented participation by members and guests at our network events over the past twelve months. I want to also extend our sincere gratitude to our **Sponsor Partners**, without whose generous support we could not hold an event of this nature. Please take a moment to review the diverse roster of sponsors and please remember to support them when the opportunity arises.

Since the 2011 Ball here at **The Drake**, we have either hosted or partnered on a record 25 networking events, and have supported many others over the course of the year, including former **President Mary Robinson's** lecture, a Dominican University presentation. Our monthly "**First Friday**" networking series continues to gain popularity, providing a natural and continual forum for connections across the membership and beyond. We also introduced a new occasional invited-speaker series titled "**IN-Conversation**", at which we've been fortunate to host speakers such as **Colm Tóibín, Christopher Kennedy** and **Professor Colm O'Muircheartaigh**. Watch for more installments in this exciting series over the coming months. This past June saw the establishment of a new annual tradition—the **IN-Chicago Summer Beach Picnic**, designed in part to get a little color (but not too much) on Irish legs early in the Chicago summer. It worked—in some cases, too well. In addition, we have made great strides working in partnership with Irish groups nationally in building the IN-USA framework that will shortly link members from twelve (and growing) Irish Networks around the country.

We look forward to this Ball gathering every year for many reasons. Firstly, it has become a great Winter party fixture, and a perfect opportunity to reconnect with virtually all members along with their guests and our many friends. Secondly, any after-cost proceeds from tonight's event will contribute to our ability to fulfill IN-Chicago's mission by hosting events, attracting quality speakers and panelists to our discussion series, and building on the momentum gained in recent years as the Network continues to grow. Thirdly, and importantly, our membership takes this opportunity every year to give back by raising funds for a cause close to our hearts—**Concern Worldwide**, an organization with a mission to deliver help where it's most needed around the globe, regardless of the obstacles. Concern has strong origins in Ireland and a dedicated staff here in the City of Chicago, and we are proud to be associated with their mission by providing whatever support we can.

This year's **Grand Prize Raffle**, with a magnificent prize of a *Dream Trip to Ireland*, will yield 100% of its proceeds to Concern. Please take a moment to review the raffle details in this brochure, and then consider buying tickets from one of our volunteer sellers this evening. The winner will be announced during the band break at about 10:45 tonight. **On behalf of Concern, many thanks and best of luck!**

Enjoy the evening! We look forward to seeing you at another IN-Chicago event soon.

**Seamus Byrne**  
*President, Ireland Network Chicago*



## Comhgháirdeas

The Partners at Freeborn & Peters LLP, including Edward J. Hannon and Jennifer L. Fitzgerald, who have once again been named among the Irish Legal 100, congratulate the Ireland Network on their Annual Ball.

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# ORDER OF THE EVENING

- 7.45 pm *Opening address*—Seamus Byrne, President Ireland Network
- 8.00 pm *Dinner served*
- 9.15 pm *Aidan Cronin*—Consul General of Ireland
- 9.20 pm *Packie Bonner*—Keynote Speaker
- 9.30 pm *Irish coffee and whiskey tasting*—east side of Ballroom  
*Dancing with Hitsville Revue!*
- 10.45 pm *Raffle drawing*—tickets available at east side of Ballroom
- 12.30 am *Carriages*



# MENU OF THE EVENING

- SOUP** Bookbinder Soup *with Red Snapper and Individual Carafe of Sherry*
- SALAD** The Chicago Salad *Mesclun, Poached Pear, Bleu Cheese, Caramelized Walnuts, Strawberries; Balsamic Vinaigrette*
- ENTREE** Herb Roasted Filet Mignon, center-cut, with Pinot Noir Reduction  
French-passed Roasted Fingerling Potatoes with Rosemary and  
Garlic Haricot Verts and Orange Glazed Baby Carrots  
*or*  
Mushroom Ravioli, Spinach, Chive Garlic Velouté, Shaved Black Truffles
- DESSERT** Praline Mousse and Chocolate Mousse finished with Dark Chocolate Coating,  
paired with a Roulade of Lemon Mousse with Blueberries  
  
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Photo courtesy of Esther Havens

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- ★ Two nights bed and breakfast at the new Gibson Hotel prior to departure from Dublin

Tickets are \$50 each, or three for \$100. (Only 350 tickets to be sold, don't delay!)

Buy tickets online at [theirelandnetwork.com](http://theirelandnetwork.com) or in person at Ireland Network events on 1/24 or 2/3. If any tickets remain, they will be available at the Ball on 2/18.

Drawing will be held at the 9th Annual Ireland Network Ball at the Drake on February 18th, 2012. Winner need not be present to win. Raffle tickets are not tax-deductible. Terms and conditions of raffle are available at [www.theirelandnetwork.com](http://www.theirelandnetwork.com)



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# Irish soccer legend Packie Bonner as keynote speaker at the 9th Annual Ball



Mr. Bonner achieved iconic status in the Irish and Scottish soccer worlds beginning in 1981, with his many heroic goal-keeping performances during 80 appearances for the Republic of Ireland and 642 appearances with Glasgow Celtic—a prolific career. Having debuted for the national team on his 21st birthday, he was the goalkeeper of choice from the mid-eighties to the mid-nineties, retiring from the national team in 1996. His penalty save in the 1990 World Cup in Italy, sending Ireland to the quarter finals, endures as an iconic moment in Irish sports history.

With Glasgow Celtic, Mr. Bonner won four League Championships, three Scottish Cup medals and one League Cup medal. He remains the most prolific goalkeeper in Celtic history.

Mr. Bonner has since served in multiple capacities with the Football Association of Ireland, most recently as Technical Director. He continues to use his status and name recognition effectively in championing numerous charitable causes and in contributing to the development of youth soccer in Ireland and beyond. **We are delighted to welcome him to Chicago, sixteen weeks ahead of the Republic of Ireland's historic participation in the Euro 2012 Finals in Poland and Ukraine. *Go Ireland!***

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# PLAYBOYS OF THE MIDWESTERN WORLD

## Irish Theatre in Chicago

Joyce McGreevy

**Theatre fans, I have a confession.** Many years ago, when a friend invited me to a popular Irish play, I cringed—then muttered something about preferring to stick pins in my eyes. Not the reaction you’d expect from someone raised with a love of theatre and who was lucky enough to take on modest assignments for theatres in Dublin and Galway during the nearly 20 years that I lived in Ireland.

But as I explained to my startled friend, my aversion wasn’t to Irish plays, but to *bad productions of Irish plays*. Yes, folks, I was suffering from PTSS—Post-Theatrical Schlock Syndrome. Reliving one trauma, I recounted how an otherwise distinguished American theatre company in Another City had taken the “Irish Spring soap commercial” approach to a Sean O’Casey play, from festooning the set in cardboard shamrocks, to divvying up the dialects of all 32 counties among one small Dublin family.

“Oh,” said my friend. “You just haven’t seen how it’s done in Chicago. Chicago is truly at home with Irish theatre.” How right she was.



*Endgame* at Steppenwolf.

### THE WINDY CITY THAT SHAKES THE BARLEY

Not only does Chicago offer imaginative productions of classic Irish drama each season, but it also boasts national and regional premieres of work by Irish contemporary playwrights. Major venues like the **Goodman** and **Steppenwolf** and intimate storefront spaces like **Profiles**, **Redtwist**, and **Strawdog\*** have introduced Chicago audiences to groundbreaking plays by Martin McDonagh (*Beauty Queen of Leenane*, *A Behanding in Spokane*), Conor McPherson (*The Weir*, *Shining City*) and Enda Walsh (*Disco Pigs*, *Penelope*). [\*Full disclosure: I serve on the board of Strawdog.]

Production values eschew stereotypes, a must in a city that frequently hosts Ireland’s **Druid Theatre** (at

Chicago Shakespeare) and the **Abbey** (at the Museum of Contemporary Art). Meanwhile, from the Newberry Library to Northwestern University, Irish theatre is a popular elective—Columbia College devotes an entire course to it. The **Irish American Heritage Center**, home to **Shapeshifters** and **Seanacháí Theatres**, has hosted the Acting Irish International Theatre Festival. Given such rich context, Chicagoans come to Irish plays well informed and with high expectations.

As theatre critic Kelly Kleiman put it during a year-end appraisal on WBEZ, “the best plays with an Irish lilt is always a crowded category in Chicago.” She declared a tie in 2011 between *A Touch of the Poet* at **Artistic Home**, directed by Kathy Scambiaterra, and *Shadow of a Gunman* at Seanacháí, directed by John Mossman, Scambiaterra’s husband. “Whether it’s O’Neill or O’Casey, you can count on a true feel of the Ould Sod from these two,” said Kleiman.

### DANCING AT THE GLOBAL CROSSROADS

So what do Chicago’s highly diverse audiences relate to in, say, the work of a playwright from Ballybofey, County Donegal? I asked Michael Dailey, actor and Associate Artistic Director at Strawdog, whose performance as Eamon in Brian Friel’s *Aristocrats* the Chicago Sun-Times praised as “searingly intelligent.” (The Wall Street Journal declared the production “more than worth the vexation of flying in and out of O’Hare.”)

“Friel is brutally honest,” says Dailey, “and I think that is something Chicago audiences love. His plays are very



Tom Hickey, Johnny Garcia, Andrew Jessop in *The Pillowman* at Redtwist.

political, deal with really intense issues of cultural identity, and yet they are still very poetic. The same could be said of Chicago. Friel creates worlds that are rough and honest and Chicago audiences can relate to that.”



Anita Deeley, Michael Dailey in *Aristocrats* at Strawdog Theatre.

“The amazing thing about being human is that no matter where we come from, our struggles, tropes, and stories are the same,” says Chicago director Adam Goldstein, whose academic research into Irish theatre led him to travel around Ireland in the footsteps of Friel, John Millington Synge, McDonagh, and other playwrights. Along the way, Goldstein met actors, directors, and arts administrators, launching discussions in urban Irish pubs and performance spaces that he and his fellow artists overseas have kept up using social media.

Which helps explain why the vision that Goldstein has brought back to Chicago is unclouded by faux Celtic romanticism. “The seemingly quaint cottages of *Playboy of the Western World*, the barns of *Translations*, and the Leenane cottage of *Beauty Queen* strip away everything but the essence of who we are together as people in space.” Currently in his final year in the MFA Directing program at Northwestern and slated to direct Emily Schwend’s *South of Settling* for Steppenwolf’s Next Up Series this spring, Goldstein’s credits for Chicago productions of Irish plays include directing, assistant directing, dialect coaching, and dramaturgy.

## FROM INISHMAAN TO ILLINOIS: THE ROAD AHEAD

What’s next for Irish theatre in Chicago? Kimberly Senior, named one of the best Chicago theatre directors of 2011 by WBEZ and the Chicago Tribune, directs McDonagh’s *The Cripple of Inishmaan* at **Redtwist Theatre**. Senior’s previous direction of a McDonagh play drew raves from the Trib’s Nina Metz: “Certain things can only be revealed in close-up . . . which brings us to Kimberly Senior’s unforgettable production of *The Pillouman* for Redtwist Theatre, which...nails what far too few off-Loop theatre companies...are willing to go after. I’m speaking of intimacy that nearly goes too far.” *Inishmaan* runs May 5-June 10.

Looking farther ahead, Strawdog’s 25th anniversary season will feature the Chicago premiere of an edgy Irish musical that scooped three Irish Times Theatre Awards, including Best Production, when it debuted at Dublin’s **Rough Magic Theatre** in 2005. “Being the first Chicago theatre company to produce *Improbable Frequency* is a thrill and an honor,” says Artistic Director Brandon Bruce. Written by Arthur O’Riordan and Bell Helicopter, the play is a satire on neutral Ireland in 1941. “This piece is not only high on entertainment value, with a lot of high-energy physical comedy and great music,” says Bruce, “It also boasts the sharp wordplay and wit that audiences have come to expect from the Irish theatrical tradition.” He looks forward to introducing Chicago “to one more brilliant piece of Irish theatre.”

# THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING CHICAGO...



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# The IN concept was born in Chicago and IN-USA is now a unified organization with twelve chapters across the US, with many more soon to come!

The IN-USA mission is to bring Irish, Irish Americans, and friends of Ireland together with the objective of strengthening business and cultural ties across the member Networks, and also between the US and Ireland.

Whether you wear a white collar or blue collar, boots or suits, scrubs or a guitar strap, IN-USA is a network organization forging connections for you across the

country. The member groups are bound together by a strong connection to Ireland. As a true national network of the Irish Diaspora, IN-USA facilitates the goals of building a strong network across the US, and serving as a critical resource for Irish abroad .

IN-USA was first conceived by members of the Chicago, New York, Washington DC, Bay Area and San Diego Networks in 2009. Following the Irish Government's initiative at the Global Irish Economic Forum in September 2009, representatives of each of the five City Networks met to discuss formally connecting under a national umbrella organization. IN-USA was formed in January 2010, and formally launched by then-Taoiseach Brian Cowen shortly thereafter. The most recent addition to the group is the New Orleans chapter (IN-NOLA) which launched in November 2011 with a festive event attended by Ambassador Michael Collins and several other dignitaries. IN-NOLA is thriving and has become a model of what can be achieved when the greater Irish community comes together.

A key goal of IN-USA's Board, led by co-Presidents Steve Lenox and John Murphy, is to strengthen connectivity among member groups and individuals across the country. IN-Chicago will update you on our progress. Stay tuned...



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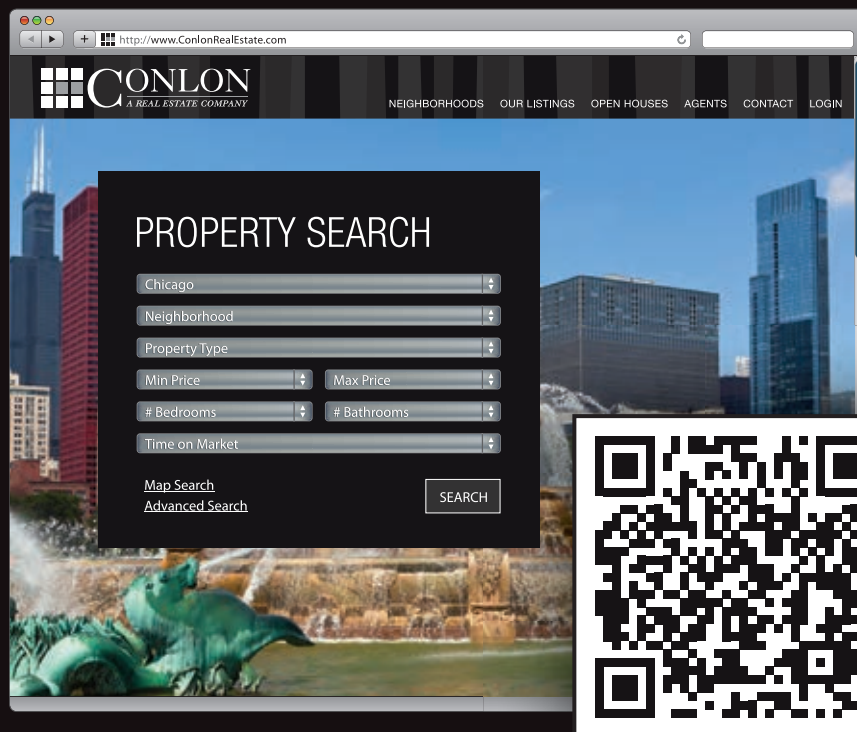
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# Ireland Network Chicago Events Over the Past Year

**Ireland Network Chicago fulfills its mission by hosting a wide variety of events over the calendar year**, providing many different forums for our members and guests to connect and opportunities to build their business networks. This past year was our busiest by far, with IN-Chicago hosting or supporting a record 25 networking events, and establishing new fixtures such as our IN-Conversation discussion series, an Annual Summer Beach Picnic at Montrose Harbor, and an Annual Members' Business Showcase. Watch for a similarly exciting events calendar for the upcoming year. **We look forward to seeing you at an IN-Chicago event soon!**



*First-Friday fun.*

## Ireland Network Chicago Events—from March 4, 2011 to February 18, 2012

03-04-11	First Friday Gathering   Fadó	09-02-11	First Friday Gathering   Fadó
03-13-11	IAHC's A View into the Irish Economy   IAHC	09-16-11	IN-Chicago Summer Book Review   Coq d'Or
03-14-11	Annual General Meeting 2011   The Gage	10-07-11	Members' Business Showcase / First Friday Gathering   The Gage
04-01-11	First Friday Gathering   Elephant & Castle	10-18-11	Dominican University's Mary Robinson Lecture   University Club of Chicago
04-13-11	Panel Discussion on Real Estate   KPMG	11-04-11	First Friday Gathering   Celtic Crossings
05-06-11	First Friday Gathering   Coq d'Or	11-10-11	IN-NOLA Launch   Gallier Hall, New Orleans
05-18-11	Spring Table Quiz   Halsted Harp	11-16-11	Annual Fall Table Quiz   Elephant & Castle
06-03-11	IN-Conversation: Colm Tóibín   University Club of Chicago	12-03-11	Meet the Consul General / First Friday Gathering   Paddy Long's
06-03-11	First Friday Gathering / Post Colm Tóibín Reception   The Gage	01-06-12	First Friday Gathering   Farmhouse
06-18-11	International Picnic Day Family Event   Montrose Harbor & Beach	01-24-12	IN-Conversation: Christopher Kennedy and Colm O'Muircheartaigh
07-01-11	Consul General farewell / First Friday Gathering   O'Briens Riverwalk Cafe	02-03-12	First Friday Gathering   Potter's at the Palmer House Hilton
08-05-11	First Friday Gathering   Emerald Loop	02-18-12	9th Annual Ball   The Drake
08-31-11	Annual Lake Michigan Boat Cruise with AIF Young Leaders		



*Last year's 8th Annual Ball. February 2011.*



*IN-Conversation: Chris Kennedy & Colm O'Muircheartaigh. January, 2012.*



*Panel Discussion on Real Estate. April, 2011.*



*Networking over a nice cabernet.*



*Annual Lake Michigan Boat Cruise with AIF Young Leaders. August 2011.*



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# Ireland Network Chicago Committee Members



**Deborah Ryder**

[www.deborahryder.com](http://www.deborahryder.com)

Deborah Ryder is a licensed Illinois Realtor. She joined American International Realty in 2004 and is their top producing Agent in Chicago. Deborah continues to be in the top 10% of residential real estate agents in the Chicago area. She has received numerous awards from the Chicago Association of Realtors for her outstanding sales accomplishments. She is a native of Dublin, Ireland and has lived in Chicago for 18 years.



**Helen Garrahy**

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Helen Garrahy is a Portfolio Manager at Heitman, a real estate investment management firm. Helen is originally from Co. Westmeath and has lived in Chicago for nine years. She previously worked in New York and London, where she qualified as a Chartered Surveyor. Helen is a graduate of Dublin Institute of Technology (Bolton Street), Trinity College, Dublin and University College Galway.



**Ken Dooley**

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Ken Dooley is a Real Estate Broker with Conlon Real Estate. Ken is a native of Dublin and has lived in Chicago for 18 years. A graduate of the College of Commerce in Rathmines with a BSc in Management from Trinity College, Dublin. Ken resides with his wife and three children in Wicker Park. Interests include rugby, cycling and photography.



**Kevin Boland**

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Kevin Boland is originally from Cork, and has lived in Chicago since 1998, following a stint in London. A director at The Drake Hotel and also co-founder of Boland Brothers LLC, a commercial real estate investment firm. In his spare time he sits on the board of Singapore based Pilot Crew Recruitment and The Irish Fellowship Club of Chicago and chairs Hospitality Cares Chicago. Kevin has previously served on the board of HELP (Help Ease Local Poverty) and Meeting Professionals International—Chicago Chapter. He lives in Lincoln Park.



**Seamus Byrne**

*President*

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Seamus Byrne is an architect and a Principal at Byrne Design LLC in Chicago. Originally from Waterford and a graduate of UCD's School of Architecture, Seamus moved to Chicago from London in 1991 and has been a member of Ireland Network Chicago since its founding, joining the committee in 2009. He lives on the north side of the city with his wife, daughter and anxious mess of a dog.



**Fiona McEntee**

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Hailing from Dublin, Fiona McEntee has been in Chicago for the past eight years. She is the Founding Attorney of the McEntee Law Group, Immigration Law Practice, and feels fortunate that she gets to work with clients in various industries, many of whom are Irish. This is Fiona's second year on the Committee and she and her husband, Brian, have been regular attendees at Ireland Network events for years.



**Rachel McCormac**

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Rachel McCormac has been a member of the Ireland Network Committee for one year. A native of Dublin, Ireland, Rachel has lived in Chicago for seven years, having previously worked as Marketing Director of a Dublin estate agency for eight years Rachel is now a self-employed remodeling contractor with Artane Construction specializing in the remodeling of single family and condominium homes.



**Karen McMonagle**

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Karen McMonagle is a director at KPMG LLP. She has worked for KPMG in Buenos Aires and Dublin, where she qualified as a chartered accountant and registered tax consultant. Karen is a graduate of Queen's University of Belfast and University College Dublin and attended North Central College in Naperville for one year on an academic scholarship. Originally from Mountbellew, Co Galway, she has lived in Chicago for over nine years.



**Tim Reilly**

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Tim Reilly is Vice Consul at the Consulate General of Ireland in Chicago. He joined the Irish Department of Foreign Affairs as a 3rd Secretary in 2005 and worked in the Irish Embassy in Luxembourg before being posted to Chicago in 2007. He is from Co. Tipperary.



**Eamon Nash**

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Eamon Nash is an Engineering Manager at Analog Devices. A native of Tipperary Town and an alum of University of Limerick, he has lived in the United States for 16 years, the last six in Chicago. His interests include photography, squash and tennis.



**Imelda Gallagher**

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Imelda Gallagher has been an Ireland Network Committee Member for three years. Imelda grew up in Galway and lived in Dublin before returning to her native Chicago seven years ago. Imelda was a Barrister in Ireland and is now working with Goodman Networks, a company specializing in leasing/ licensing for major wireless carriers to expand and improve telecommunication and internet coverage.



**Maura O'Brien**

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A Chicago native with roots in Mayo and Cork, Maura has been involved with Ireland Network for nearly two years. She is currently an Analyst with The Tokarz Group, was on the Executive Board of The Young Irish Fellowship for six years and is a Parade Judge for the Downtown St. Patrick's Day Parade.



**Valerie Wall**

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Valerie Wall has been a member of the Ireland Network committee for the past year, after a previous stint as President of the UCD Alumni - Chicago Chapter. A native of Dublin, Valerie has lived in Chicago for 12 years, direct from finishing her studies in chemistry at UCD. Starting her career as a research scientist with the Monsanto Company, Valerie is now part of Richmond Chemical Corporation, a chemistry and biosciences company in Oak Brook.



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# Networking the Irish Diaspora—a Key Piece of Ireland’s Economic Recovery

Kingsley Aikins



**The front cover of the Economist just before Christmas said it all.**

It was entitled ‘The magic of Diasporas’ with a subtitle... ‘how migrant business networks are reshaping the world’. This was an example

of how mainstream media is recognising something many of us in Ireland have known for a long time...Diasporas are powerful and increasingly so in an age of dramatic advances in technology, communications and travel. The numbers are impressive.

There are now 215 million people in the world who live in a country other than the one they were born in... one in ten people in the developed world is a migrant. This is a number that has tripled in the last 25 years. Also, migrants are massive drivers of innovation and entrepreneurship. From Alfred Hitchcock to Larry Page and Sergie Brin the US has been home to terrific economic advances fuelled by well educated immigrants. Now these people are increasingly turning their attention to their home countries and developing all sorts of linkages. For possibly the first time in history, geography is not dictating identity, people can live hyphenated lives, and be here and there. The whole notion of emigration is being challenged as people move freely and often for temporary periods. Brain drain can become brain gain and brain exchange. Regions and cities are becoming more important than countries. For example Silicon Valley has more in common with Shanghai, Singapore, Tel Aviv and Dublin than it does with Fresno which is much closer and in the same state. The world now revolves around connected clusters of creative people and it is all about ‘connecting to’ rather than ‘competing with’. Networks are critical and Diasporas provide great examples of this. The best four countries in the world in this space are Israel, India, China and Taiwan and we all have much to learn from them. Traditionally, the relationship was all about remittances and that is still a \$400 billion per year industry. However, now the relationships are about trade and investment, education, tourism, medicine, education, art, culture and sport and many countries are now developing strategies in these areas.

Ireland has always had a close relationship with her Diaspora. The numbers are massive, with over 70 million people around the world claiming some sort of Irish heritage. The US, with over 44 million is the largest and with more than 10 million of them under 18 the potential is obvious. There are over three million Irish citizens living overseas and there are hundreds of different groups that bring them together in different ways and for different causes. The Irish Government sees this Diaspora network as a considerable resource and has organised two major conferences in the last two years attended by some of the most successful members from around the world, particularly from the business community. What is exciting about this sector now is that Ireland has the potential to become the best in the world in this space. Key to this is innovation and there are a number of unique initiatives that are currently being worked on. Among them is John McColgan’s World Irish website and the Connect project that will incentivize and reward people in the Irish Diaspora who create jobs back in Ireland. Another project is in Dun Laoghaire - an ambitious plan to build an International Diaspora Center in the harbor there. There are many other initiatives in the works including the ‘Gathering’ which will be a tourist initiative to encourage members of the Diaspora to come back to Ireland in 2013 and visit.

What is most interesting about this topic is the number of countries who are putting in place strategies to connect with their Diasporas. Canada, Scotland, Vietnam, Singapore, Australia and Jamaica are just a few of the countries who are developing interesting programs and learning from each other. Last May in Washington the US State Department held the Hillary Clinton Global Diaspora Forum, the first of its kind in the US and it was attended by hundreds of organizations and countries. There is no doubt that this is an area that is going to grow dramatically in the future which is why Ireland should set out to be the best in the world and this will attract enormous global interest. Everybody has a role to play and one reason is that Diaspora is about place as well as country which means that every county, town and village can reach out and connect with their Diaspora. What this writer believes is that every organization, institution, corporation, location and individual should develop a Diaspora strategy and should begin by asking the question...“What can I/we do for the Diaspora rather than what can the Diaspora do for us”. The more you give the more you receive.

*Kingsley Aikins is the founder of Diaspora Matters and has written extensively on the topic. All his publications, including the Global Diaspora Strategies Toolkit which was launched last May in Washington at the Hillary Clinton Global Diaspora Forum, are available on [www.diasporamatters.com](http://www.diasporamatters.com).*

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