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10th Annual Irelana Network Chicago

Saturday | February 16, 2013 The Drake | Chicago

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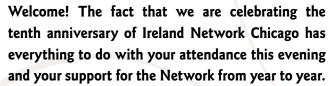
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Welcome to IN-Chicago's 10th Annual Ball



That level of commitment is key to the Network's ability to fulfill its mission—supporting our membership's business development efforts and providing a bridge for newly arrived Irish to the Chicago business and Chicago Irish communities. IN-Chicago does this by hosting a full calendar of diverse and engaging events, both business and social, of which this annual gathering is the anchor.

Since last year's Ball here at The Drake, IN-Chicago has hosted or partnered no less than 26 network gatherings. Other events that IN-Chicago has supported during the year include the Chicago Council on Global Affairs' extensive NATO Summit programs in May. Our monthly First Friday program continues to provide a natural forum for connections across the membership and beyond. Our annual program has expanded significantly with several exciting new events, including our Bloomsday Picnic at Montrose Harbor in June, the **Rooftop Movie Screening** in July, and the **Members' Business Expo** in October, in addition to the ever-popular **Fall Table Quiz** in November. **IN-Conversation**, our occasional discussion series, has continued to thrive. IN-Chicago has been fortunate to host such knowledgeable panelists as Lori Healey, Niamh King, Don Welsh, and Colm O'Callaghan at recent installments of this wide-ranging series. We look forward to hosting many of you at these event programs over the coming months.

We are also delighted to report that IN-USA, our network partnership across the country, continues to grow, with **IN-ATX (Austin, TX)** and **IN-MN (Minnesota)** recently joining the ranks of what is now a truly national framework of Irish Networks across the U.S.

For many years, this annual gathering in February has provided us with the opportunity to give back as a membership by raising funds for our charities of choice. This year we are delighted to support both global and local causes that are close to our hearts—**Concern Worldwide**, an organization that delivers help where it's most needed around the globe, and **Chicago Irish Immigrant Support**, which provides essential services to local Irish immigrants in need.

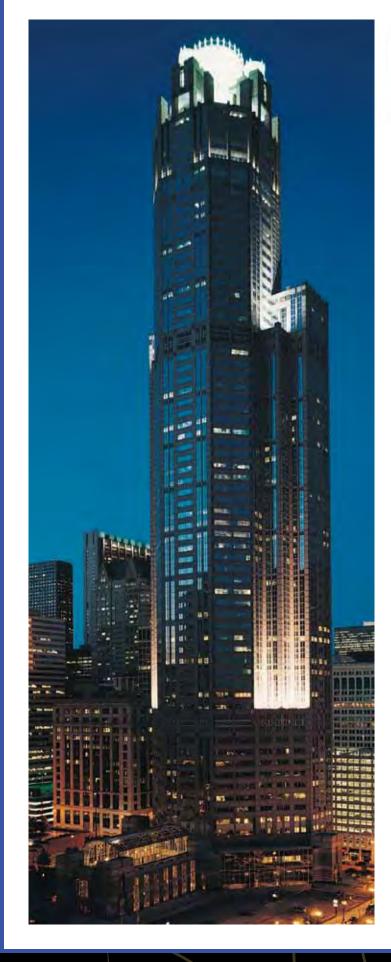
Our 2013 Grand Prize Raffle, which offers the magnificent prize of a *Dream Trip to Ireland*, will yield 100% of the proceeds to these two worthy causes, and the lucky winner will be announced after dinner this evening. On behalf of Concern and CIIS, many thanks for your support and best of luck!

Lastly, I want to extend our sincere gratitude to our Sponsor Partners, without whose generous support over the past ten years we could not host events of this nature. Please take a moment to review the diverse roster of sponsors in this brochure and please support them with your business whenever the opportunity arises. Thanks also to the Consulate General of Ireland for its continued strong advocacy for our mission. And many thanks to our hardworking committee members and other key volunteers who spend countless hours all year long building the success and vibrancy of the Network. It shows!

Here's to the next ten years! Enjoy the evening, and we look forward to seeing you at another IN-Chicago event very soon.

Seamus Byrne

President, Ireland Network Chicago





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ENTRÉE Slow Roasted Short Ribs, Seasonal Mushroom Ragout presented on a bed of Yukon Gold Mashed Potatoes, Haricot Verts, Orange Glazed Baby Carrots

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Win Your Dream Trip to Ireland!



IN-Chicago's 2013 Grand Prize Raffle

Help others, both globally and locally. All proceeds benefit CONCERN Worldwide and Chicago Irish Immigrant Support.

Thanks to generous sponsorship from American Airlines, The Marker Hotel in Dublin, and Fota Island Resort in Cork, one lucky winner will receive the following magnificent prize package:

- ★ Round-trip air travel for two on American Airlines, from Chicago to Dublin
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Winner announced tonight at the Drake! (Winner need not be present to win.)

Tickets are \$50 each, or three for \$100. Only 400 tickets to be sold! So hurry, to enter the raffle, see our Volunteer ticket sellers right away!

★ Many thanks for supporting the missions of CONCERN and CIIS. Best of luck! ★





Concern Worldwide U.S. congratulates The Ireland Network on the 10th Annual Ball!



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Thank you for your partnership and support of Concern's programs.

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Our 2013 Keynote Speaker



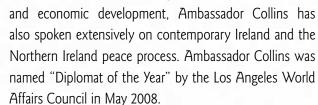
IN-CHICAGO IS HONORED TO PRESENT



His Excellency Michael Collins

Ambassador of Ireland to the United States of America

Michael Collins became Ireland's Ambassador to the United States on 18 September 2007 following presentation of his credentials to President Bush. He is the 16th person to occupy the post of Irish Ambassador to the US since 1924. In the year since his appointment, Ambassador Collins has travelled to all the major centers in the United States. With a particular focus on supporting Irish business



Prior to his Washington appointment, Ambassador Collins worked for six years, on secondment from the Department of Foreign Affairs, as Second Secretary General at the Department of the Taoiseach (Prime Minister of Ireland). In that capacity he worked closely with Taoiseach Bertie Ahern, Prime Minister Blair and the Northern Ireland political parties on the Northern Ireland peace process. Between 2001 and 2007 he was a participant at all the major peace process events that culminated with the 2006 St. Andrews Agreement and the formation of the Northern Ireland Executive on 8 May 2007. He was also with the former Taoiseach during his landmark address to the Parliament at Westminster in May of that year and more recently, as Ambassador, when the Taoiseach addressed a Joint Meeting of the US Congress in May 2008.

During his time at the Department of the Taoiseach, Ambassador Collins was also responsible for European



H.E. Michael Collins

Union issues, including Ireland's EU presidency in 2004 as well all UN and international affairs.

He was also a member of the Board of the Royal Irish Academy (International Affairs). He travelled extensively with the Taoiseach on all his official visits and most notably on the major trade promotion visits that the Taoiseach led to China (2005), India (2006) and the Gulf (2007).

A native of Dublin, Ambassador Collins was born in 1953 and was educated at Blackrock College and Trinity College, Dublin. He joined the Department of Foreign Affairs as a Third Secretary in 1974 and his early diplomatic postings brought him to Rome (1975-77), New York (1982-86) and Washington (1993-95). Ambassador Collins served as Ireland's Ambassador to Saudi Arabia from 1995-99 during which time he was also Ireland's Ambassador to covered Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar and the United Emirates.

Ambassador Collins also served from 1999-2001 as Ambassador to the Czech Republic and Ukraine.

Ambassador Collins was the Head of Press and spokesman for the Department of Foreign Affairs from 1990 to 1993. While serving in Dublin in the late 1980s he also worked on international arms control and disarmament issues and represented Ireland at numerous international meetings on these issues including at the United Nations in New York and the International Conference on Disarmament and Development in 1989.

Ambassador Collins is married to Marie and they have three sons, Brian, David, and Owen.



A Message from the Consul General

Aidan Cronin

Ireland's Consul General in Chicago

My wife Maedhbh and I are delighted to be able to join you here tonight at what will be our second Irish Network Ball since we arrived in Chicago some eighteen months ago. Thank you to the Committee for your kind invitation to join in your celebrations this evening.

The Ireland Network Ball is, with good reason, regarded as being one of the highlights of the Irish social calendar in Chicago, thanks to the hard work

of successive organizing committees over the last ten years. As we look forward to kicking-off the St. Patrick's Day celebrations next month, tonight affords us the opportunity to get back into the swing of things after a January of well-earned hibernation and recuperation after December's excesses.

As I have gotten to know the members of Ireland Network over the past eighteen months, I have been impressed time and again by your enthusiasm, your industry, your dedication to making the Network the best that it can be, whether as a forum for discussion, a way to make new connections or simply as a vehicle for meeting and enjoying each other's company every First Friday. What has struck me most, however, is your passion, your determination that, as you make your lives and your careers in this great city, you will remain connected to, and supportive of, Ireland.

I am, as Ireland's Consul General in Chicago, very grateful for that support, as I continue the work of telling Ireland's story and promoting Ireland's interests in Chicago and across the Midwest.

And we do have a positive story to tell.

Ireland has been through some difficult times but through it all the Irish people have remained resilient and there is a renewed confidence that we are on the road to recovery. The Government has, since taking office in March 2011, put in place a series of measures to re-structure and re-capitalize the Irish banking system, to get our public finances back in order, to restore competitiveness to the domestic economy and to create employment. It is a work in progress and more challenges undoubtedly lie ahead, but compared to where we were as an economy and as a people, just two years ago, we are in a much stronger position to address those challenges in the coming years.



We are grateful to the Irish diaspora, to organizations like Ireland Network Chicago and its counterparts across the country – there are now some thirteen Ireland Networks spread across the USA - for supporting initiatives such as Connect Ireland and, this year in particular, The Gathering.

As Ireland's official representatives here in the United States, we are, when set against the

size of the territory to be covered, relatively small in number— the Embassy in Washington, the five Consulates General, the different State agencies, including our colleagues in the IDA office here in Chicago – and having you advocate for Ireland, in your community, in your workplace, in your business, means a lot to us and we value your input greatly. So please, keep flying the flag for Ireland and for the Irish people.

I am particularly delighted that Ambassador Michael Collins is here with us this evening. He has, along with his wife Marie, represented the Government and the people of Ireland here in the United States with distinction over the past five years, and I would like to take this opportunity to wish Michael and Marie every success as they prepare for their move to Berlin this summer.

I would also like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to Séamus Byrne, as he prepares to hand over the reins of the Presidency in the coming months. Séamus has led the Network with great dedication over the past two years and the strong and mutually supportive relationship that exists between the Network and the Consulate is due in no small measure to his leadership. His input as President will, of course, be missed but, in the spirit of "The King is Dead, Long Live the King/Queen", all of us in the Consulate look forward to working closely with his successor and with the new Committee over the next twelve months and beyond.

Le gach dea ghui,

Aidan Cronin Consul General February 2013



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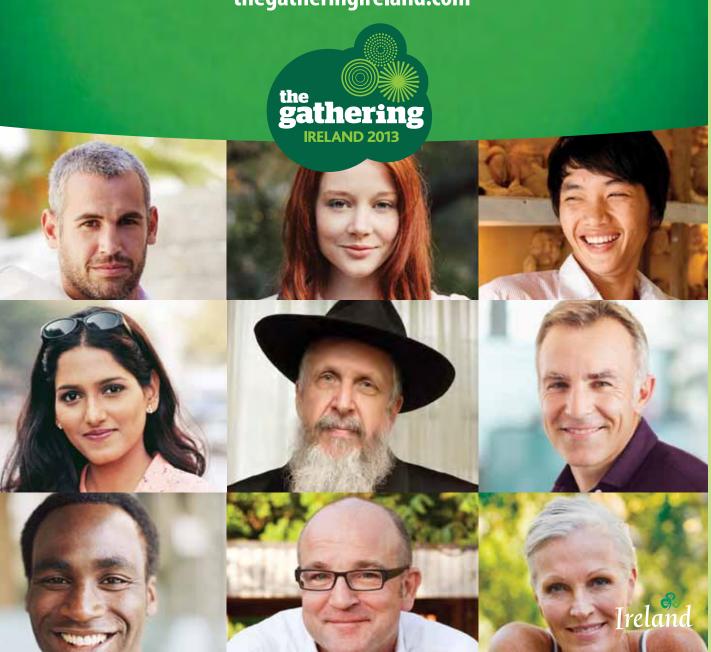


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thegatheringireland.com



The Gathering Ireland 2013



You are invited to Ireland!

We're rolling out the green carpet in 2013.

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COME ON HOME TO IRELAND

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Follow your heart to the place where the most beautiful vacation memories are **made.** There is nothing quite like experiencing the poetry, the majesty and the warm hospitality of Ireland first hand. The



Gathering Ireland 2013 is the time to plan a reunion with family, friends, classmates, or colleagues. So if you are planning on an event for 2013, consider having it in Ireland.

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For travel information and event details, please visit ireland.com/thegathering.

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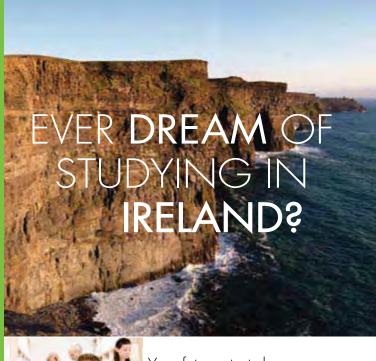


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ShamROCK Chicago 2013 rallies Chicagoans to vote for Chicago as U.S. headquarters for St. Patrick's Day



Vote, Chicago! It's easy at shamROCKchicago2013.com.

When it comes to St. Patrick's Day and demonstrating Chicago Irish pride, the Chicagoland community, regardless of heritage, has never been shy about "embracing the green." And, true to architect Daniel H. Burnham's declaration in the late 1890s that Chicago "make no little plans." Chicago celebrates big each year on March 17. It is in this spirit that ShamROCK Chicago 2013 has launched as an initiative aimed at affirming Chicago's place as "the" U.S. headquarters for St. Patrick's Day.

The goal of the campaign is to encourage as many website visitors and Facebook followers as possible from Chicago and beyond to declare their Chicago pride via a simple online vote at **shamROCKchicago2013.com.** After all the votes are recorded, a petition and vote tally will be presented by the ShamROCK Chicago Council to Aidan Cronin, Consul General of Ireland, at a public event in the days leading up to March 17, 2013.

As part of the initiative, prominent Chicago business people with strong Irish ties are serving on the honorary **ShamROCK Chicago Council** and will promote the effort throughout their communities. They exemplify the Irish spirit

in Chicago and will come together to present the petition. They include:

- **Tom Boyle** Chicago Gaelic Park
- Marlene Byrne President, Celtic Chicago, Inc.
- **Seamus Byrne** President, Ireland Network Chicago
- Cliff Carlson Publisher. Irish American News
- Michael Clune Chairman, Clune Construction
- Joe Connelly Parade Co-Chair 2013, South Side Irish Parade
- **Jim Coyne** General Chairman, Parade Committee & Business Manager, Chicago Journeymen Plumbers' Local 130, U.A.
- Elizabeth Murray-Belcaster Executive Director, Northwest Side Irish Parade
- Michael G. O'Rourke President and CEO. Signature Bank
- Patrick Sullivan Sergeant, Shannon Rovers
- **Patrick Thompson** Chairman, The Irish Fellowship Club of Chicago

In addition to casting their votes, visitors to shamROCKchicago2013.com will also be able to find event information on the "Craic Finder," purchase ShamROCK Chicago shirts, learn fun facts about Chicago's St. Patrick's Day celebrations, spread the word by ROCKING their friends and encourage them to visit the social media sites for ShamROCK Chicago 2013.

Street teams have been blanketing Chicago to raise visibility for the initiative and encourage widespread participation, with more events to come. For more information on ShamROCK Chicago 2013, future events or to cast your vote, please visit shamROCKchicago2013.com, find us on Facebook at facebook.com/shamROCKchicago2013 or Twitter @ shamROCKchicago.

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A Look Back at Ireland Network Chicago Events in 2012



Ireland Network Chicago fulfills its mission by hosting a wide variety of events over the calendar

year. Among the highlights of 2012 was our partnering with the Chicago Council on Global Affairs for their historic public education endeavor, the NATO Summit Speakers Series. We also joined the Irish Fellowship Club and the Irish American Partnership in welcoming Taoiseach Enda Kenny to Chicago for St. Patrick's Day. Last but not least, we enjoyed many opportunities to support charitable causes. Here is a look back at just a few of the IN-Chicago events that our members attended in 2012.

07 Dec	First Friday Gathering & CIIS Benefit Elephant & Castle
15 Nov	Annual Table Quiz & Hurricane Relief Fundraiser Corcoran's Grill & Pub
02 Nov	First Friday Gathering Argent
05 Oct	IN-Chicago Annual Members' Business Showcase
19 Sep	IN-Conversation: NATO Revisited, with Lori Healey & Niamh King
09 Sep	End-of-Summer Golf Outing
07 Sep	First Friday Gathering Columbia Yacht Club
07 Aug	"Rush Hour Concert" featuring Maire O'Brien

03 Aug First Friday Gathering/ Vice Consul General Farewell

First Friday Gathering | O'Brien's Riverwalk Café

The Pepper Canister

22 Jun Connect Ireland Reception | The Gage

20 Jul Movie on the Roof



First Friday fun

	I6 Jun	Annual Bloomsday Picnic & Performance
	I0 Jun	UEFA Euro 2012: Republic of Ireland vs Croatia
	01 Jun	First Friday Gathering Emerald Loop
	04 May	First Friday Gathering Rebar at Trump International Chicago
	25 Apr	Education in Ireland Reception
	13 Apr	Annual Members' Meeting
	06 Apr	First Friday Gathering Celtic Crossing
	02 Mar	First Friday Gathering Halsted Harp
	18 Feb	9th Annual Ball The Drake
	03 Feb	First Friday Gathering Potter's at The Palmer House Hilton
	24 Jan	IN-Conversation: Christopher Kennedy & Colm O'Muircheartaigh
	06 Jan	First Friday Gathering Farmhouse





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The annual Bloomsday Picnic & Performance.



Celebrating Ireland at the iBAM! Reception



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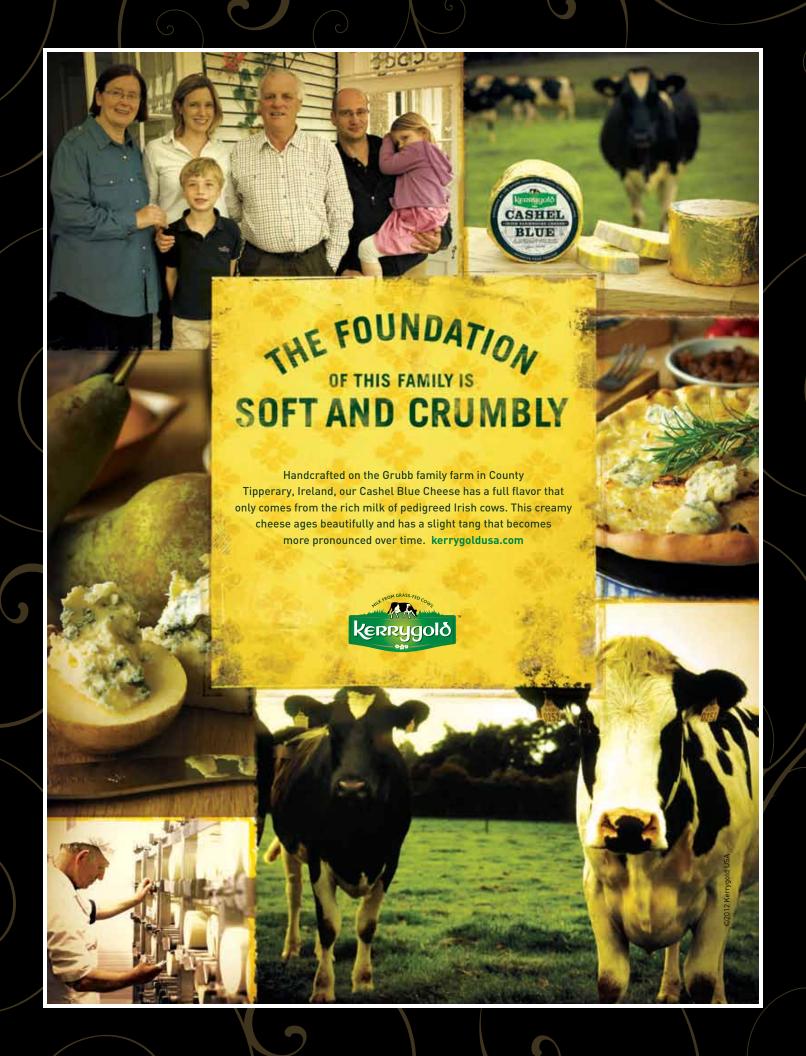


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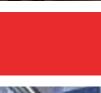


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Ireland Network Chicago Committee Members



Kevin Boland

kevin.boland@bolandbros.com

Kevin Boland is originally from Cork, and has lived in Chicago since 1998, following a stint in London. He is a founder of Boland Brothers LLC, a commercial real estate investment firm. In his spare time, Kevin sits on the board of Singapore based Pilot Crew Recruitment and The Irish Fellowship Club of Chicago and chairs Hospitality Cares Chicago. Kevin 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 seamus@byrne-design.com

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.



Imelda Gallagher

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Imelda Gallagher has been an Ireland Network committee member for four years. Imelda grew up in Galway and lived in Dublin before returning to her native Chicago eight 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.



Katie Hamilton

Katie.Hamilton@dfa.ie

A Chicago native, Katie Hamilton is the Public Affairs Officer at the Consulate General of Ireland in Chicago. She has Masters degrees in Policy from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and the University College Cork in Ireland. Katie also teaches Irish dance in the western suburbs.



Ronan Keary Ronan.Keary@cbre.com

Originally from Ballymacward, Co. Mayo, Ronan Keary is a Financial Analyst with CBRE. He has a Bachelor of Arts in Public and Social Policy from the National University of Ireland, Galway and is a licensed real estate professional. An avid sports fan, Ronan is a loyal supporter of the Galway G.A.A. teams as well as Aston Villa F.C.



Joyce McGreevy

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Joyce McGreevy is an editor at National Geographic Learning, as well as an author, a public speaker, and a board member of Chicago's Strawdog Theatre. In March Joyce will accept the 2013 NUI Galway Alumni Award for her service to the arts. She congratulates fellow alumnus and IN-Chicago member Seamus Kavanagh, winner of the 2013 Alumni Award for Science.



Lorraine Murphy

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Lorraine Murphy is from the Northside of Dublin and has been living in Chicago for the past year and a half. She is an Event Manager for CDM Media and is a relatively new member to the Ireland Network Committee. She has traveled extensively but has always dreamed of living in the United States and is looking forward to seeing what the future holds for her!



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 18 years, the last eight in Chicago. His interests include photography, squash and tennis.



Valerie Wall

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Valerie Wall is Secretary of the Ireland Network Chicago. She has been a committee member for three years, following a stint as President of the UCD Alumni–Chicago Chapter. A native of Dublin, Valerie has lived in Chicago for 14 years, direct from finishing her Ph.D. 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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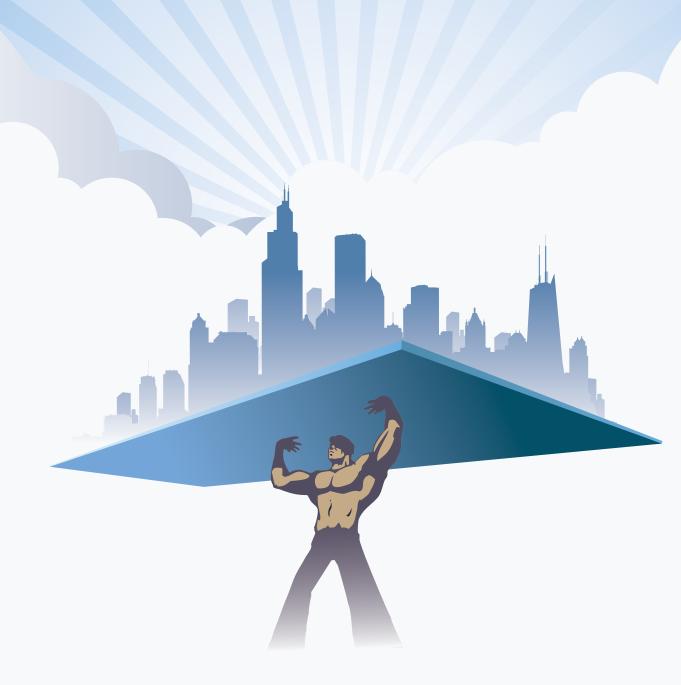










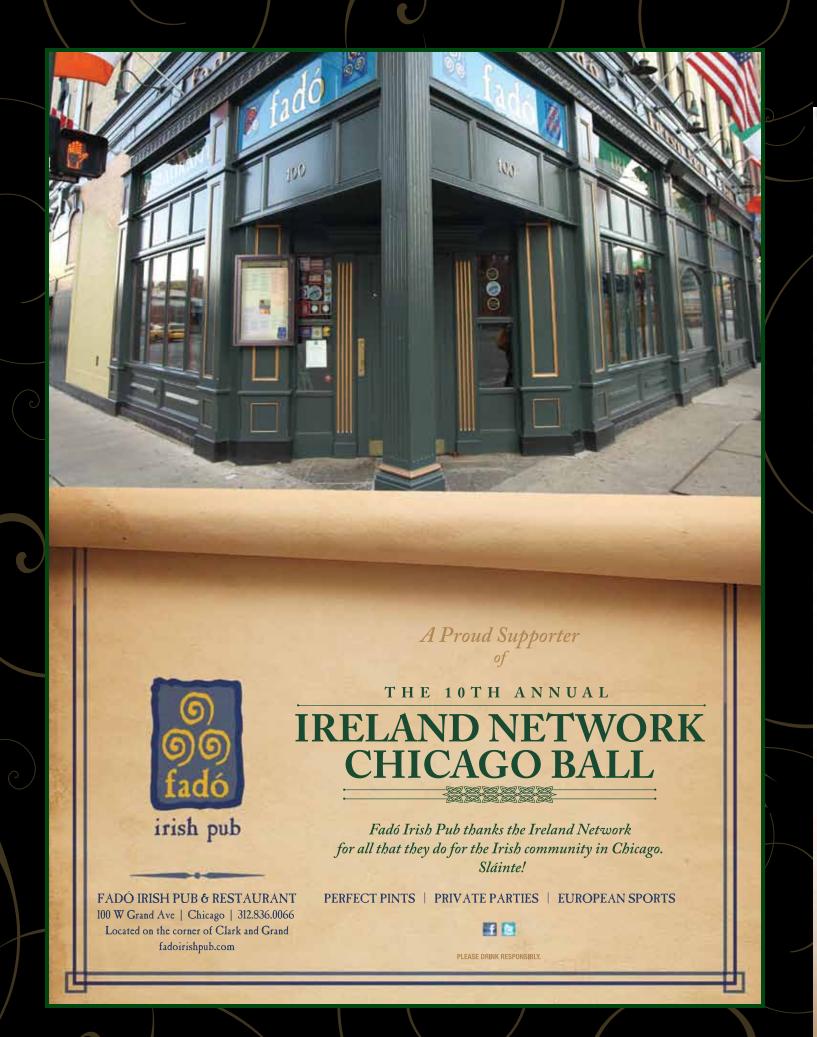


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Immigration and U.S. Economic Competitiveness: A View from the Midwest

Excerpted from a Chicago Council forthcoming task force report

The future of the United States depends on far more than economic recovery: the holy grail for the long term is economic competitiveness.

At the top of the skill ladder and at the bottom, immigrants are an essential piece of America's global competitiveness. We as a nation must work harder to attract and retain immigrant talent and avoid wasting the potential of the immigrants already here.

Despite increasing educational attainment across all levels of society, the U.S. workforce alone is not educated enough to sustain a globally competitive knowledge economy. Sixty to 70 percent of the students in American computer science and electrical engineering graduate programs are foreigners on temporary visas. Twenty-five percent of U.S. patents are held by innovators born abroad. One-quarter of the high-tech firms launched in the United States between 1995 and 2005 were founded by immigrants. These newcomers don't supplant U.S. workers. They enhance American productivity and create jobs. We need their talent to sustain our economic edge—and will need it increasingly in years ahead.

America also needs less-skilled immigrants. Long-term demographic and educational trends are changing the size and makeup of the native-born workforce. U.S. families are having fewer children. Baby boomers are retiring. Perhaps most significant. Americans are increasingly educated. In 1960 half of the native-born men in the U.S. workforce had dropped out of high school and were doing unskilled work. Today, the figure is less than 10 percent.

The economic downturn has done nothing to change the fundamental educational and demographic trends that make foreign workers essential for American prosperity. Global talent and the less-skilled workforce alike will play an essential role in the nation's economic recovery. We must make the right choices about immigrants at both ends of the job ladder. We need innovators and investors, and we need a legal way for low-skilled immigrants to come to the United States to work.

We in the Midwest need answers—now—for our economy and our communities.

We need better solutions on our borders and in the workplace. We need visas for high- and low-skilled workers, a legal immigration system that works for entrepreneurs, inventors, investors, STEM students, nurses, home health care aides, busboys, farmhands and seasonal hotel help. We need employment-based immigration that meets the needs of employers and employees as well as a family-based system that reunites relatives in a timely way. We need solutions that serve immigrants without shortchanging U.S. workers. And we need a path to citizenship for Dreamers and their parents.

The region's competitiveness—our livelihoods, our future, our children's future—hangs in the balance. We need Congress to act. It's time to step up and get the job done.





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would like to congratulate the Ireland Network Chicago on their 10th Annual Black Tie Ball.

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What's Next for Ireland Network Chicago?

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The benefits of becoming a subscribed member of IN-Chicago are numerous:

- Preferred member rates for events hosted by IN-Chicago and those co-hosted with our Partners
- Direct connection to the vibrant Irish business community in Chicago and beyond
- Access via our networking events to visiting speakers, commentators and business leaders
- Opportunities to expand your business contact network via fellow members, reconnect with colleagues and develop new connections
- IN-USA membership (coming soon) and access to IN events in other cities
- Access to the continuously expanding IN-Chicago membership directory (and soon the IN-USA directory)
- IN-Chicago membership provides you with the means to stay connected with fellow Irish across all business sectors in the Chicago area, while promoting your business, your expertise and your interests via your profile.

A membership subscription is only US\$50 annually, and online registration is quick and easy. We invite you to become a member or to join our email list by visiting TheIrelandNetwork.com, and we look forward to seeing you at an event soon.

Here's a preview of some of our upcoming events.

Friday, March 1, 6:00 PM: First Friday at Strawdog Theatre (3829 N. Broadway) See a special performance of new Irish comedy *Improbable Frequency*. The New York Times says: "Dazzling! Lovers of comic wordplay will be tickled silly."

Friday, March 15: IN-Chicago supported events: Irish American Partnership's annual St. Patrick's Day breakfast (8:00 AM, Union League Club, 65 W. Jackson) and Irish Fellowship Club's annual St. Patrick's Day dinner (6:00 PM, Hilton Chicago, 720 S. Michigan.)

Friday, April 5: First Friday and Annual Meeting (The Gage, 24 S. Michigan) Learn about events planned for the year ahead, listen to a review of activities and finances for the year just past, and most importantly, offer your feedback and ideas for the future.

Saturday, June 15: Annual Bloomsday Picnic, Montrose Beach. Some of Chicago's most talented actors perform excerpts from James Joyce's Ulysses.

For more details and to register, please visit their elandnetwork.com.



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