

Global Irish Civic Forum

Dublin Castle, Dublin, Ireland
3rd–4th June, 2015

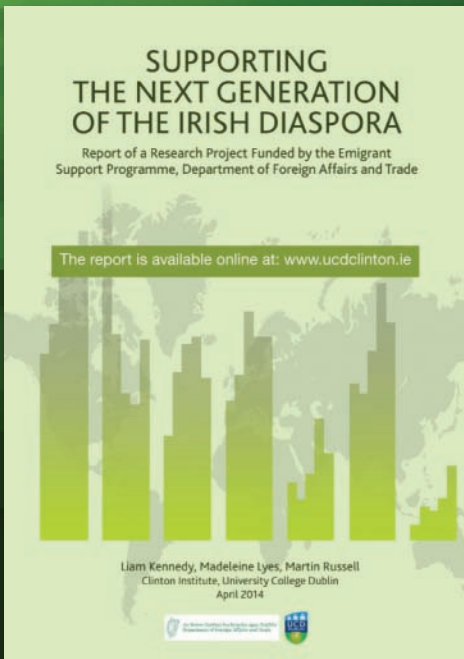
An tAire Leasaithe agus Aire Soghlúcháil,
Dáil Éireann, Oifis Leasaithe agus Aire



UCD CLINTON INSTITUTE
for AMERICAN STUDIES



This report is available online at:
www.dfa.ie/media/globalirish/global-irish-irelands-diaspora-policy.pdf



This report is available online at: www.ucdclinton.ie

A MESSAGE FROM CHARLES FLANAGAN T.D., MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND TRADE



As part of 'Global Irish: Ireland's Diaspora Policy' which was launched in March of this year, the Government committed to holding the first Global Irish Civic Forum. Its purpose: to bring together representatives of groups working with the Irish community around the world to facilitate the sharing of ideas. This Forum is also an opportunity for the Government to thank you for the superb work which you undertake in supporting our emigrants as they make new lives often far from home.

The Government is very conscious of the welfare of our emigrants abroad. Since 2004 the Emigrant Support Programme, administered by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, has been a tangible expression of the Government's support, commitment to, and interest in, the welfare of Global Irish communities. Over the years funding has been provided to the multitude of organisations working with our communities abroad, especially the most vulnerable.

Since my appointment as Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade, I have had the pleasure of meeting many of you – I look forward to seeing you again and to meeting others for the first time over the course of the Global Irish Civic Forum.

I am particularly pleased that the backdrop to this inaugural event is steady economic recovery with the latest CSO figures showing that unemployment has dropped below 10% for the first time since 2009. Over 100,000 new jobs have been created since the Government's first Annual Action Plan for Jobs in 2012 and the Government is on course to deliver its goal of full employment by 2018 and to ensure recovery is felt in all the regions of our country. We are beginning to see signs that the tide of emigration is turning and we want our emigrants to come home. I will address this particular issue in my contribution to the Forum.

I hope the first Global Irish Civic Forum is a valuable and worthwhile event for you and that you enjoy being here in Dublin meeting friends old and new.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Charles Flanagan". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Charles Flanagan T.D.
Minister for Foreign Affairs & Trade

A MESSAGE FROM JIMMY DEENIHAN T.D., MINISTER OF STATE FOR DIASPORA AFFAIRS



Since I was appointed as Ireland's first Minister for Diaspora Affairs on 11 July 2014 I have met firsthand with many of the organisations throughout the world who are working with members of our diaspora. These community groups, organisations, and individuals work hard to retain, encourage and promote Irish culture throughout the world – our music, dancing, theatre, and our traditional sports. I am also very mindful of the tremendous support provided from within the community to those Irish who find themselves in difficult situations, or at times of illness or bereavement. A powerful spirit of community and solidarity can be witnessed in Irish communities across the world. As part of the consultation phase for our Disapora Policy a consistent theme emerged around the need to enhance communication with our diaspora. The holding of the Global Irish Civic Forum is one such initiative to hear the views and perspectives of our global Irish community. I hope you find the panel discussions to be both informative and engaging and I look forward to hearing your views on how we can better support our global family.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jimmy Deenihan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being larger and more prominent.

Jimmy Deenihan T.D.

Minister of State for Diaspora Affairs

WELCOME FROM DIRECTOR, UCD CLINTON INSTITUTE



Welcome. Across the world today there are many individuals and organisations supporting the Irish diaspora in terms of culture, community and welfare – collectively they make up a remarkable body of experience and knowledge in service of the diaspora. The Global Irish Civic Forum has been conceived as an opportunity for representatives to meet in Dublin to compare and share their knowledge and practice. As our knowledge grows of Irish diaspora cultures and networks there remains much to be learned about the needs and desires of the diaspora in all its diversity and in all of its locales. We hope that discussions at the Forum will advance this learning process and help us understand how best to support our emigrant communities around the world.

Professor Liam Kennedy

Director of UCD Clinton Institute

PROGRAMME FOR GLOBAL IRISH CIVIC FORUM

DAY 1 - WEDNESDAY 3 JUNE

09.00–09.30 Tea/Coffee & Registration

09.30–10.00 **Welcome Address by Minister for Diaspora Affairs
Jimmy Deenihan T.D.**

10.00–11.30
*Conference
Hall*

PANEL DISCUSSION ON CHALLENGES FACING NEW IRISH EMIGRANTS

Moderator: *Tim O'Connor*

Panellists:

Sinéad Crowley, IIBN and icap

Joe Thompson, Irish Australian Support Association, Queensland

Cathy Murphy, Irish Canadian Immigration Center

Stephen Aherne, Irish Outreach San Diego

VC Link-up: *Embassy Abu Dhabi*

11.30–12.00 Tea/Coffee

12.00–13.30
*Conference
Hall*

PANEL DISCUSSION ON IRISH IDENTITY AND HERITAGE

Moderator: *Steve Lenox, Irish Network USA*

Panellists:

Patrick Morrison, Comhaltas UK

Páraic Duffy, GAA

Niamh Hamill, Drew University

Gerard Mulligan, Ireland Japan Chamber of Commerce

Nancy Wormington, Irish Cultural Center, Kansas

13.30–14.30 Lunch

14.30–16.00
*Conference
Hall*

PANEL DISCUSSION ON REACHING OUT TO IRISH CITIZENS ABROAD

Moderator: *Jennie McShannon, Irish in Britain*

Panellists:

Celine Kennelly, Irish Immigration Pastoral Center, San Francisco

Marion O'Hagan, Australian Irish Welfare Bureau

Denise Flanagan, Honorary Vice Consul, Auckland, New Zealand

Joe O'Brien, Crosscare

VC Link-up: *Embassy London*

16.00–16.15 Tea/Coffee

16.15–17.45

Conference
Hall

PANEL DISCUSSION ON SUPPORTING THE MENTAL WELL-BEING OF IRISH EMIGRANTS

Moderator: Mike Carroll, New York

Panellists:

Joan Freeman, Pieta House

Claire Barry, Mind Yourself

Sally Mulready, Irish Elderly Advice Network

Yvonne MacNamara, The Traveller Movement UK

VC Link-up: Embassy Ottawa

18.30–19.30

Reception hosted by President Michael D. Higgins,
Áras an Uachtaráin

DAY 2 - THURSDAY 4 JUNE

09.00–9.20

**Address by Minister for Foreign Affairs & Trade,
Charles Flanagan T.D.**

09.30–11.00

Conference
Hall

PANEL DISCUSSION ON ASSISTING EMIGRANTS RETURNING TO IRELAND

Moderator: Marty Kavanagh, Honorary Consul,
Western Australia

Panellists:

Minister Jimmy Deenihan T.D., Minister for Diaspora Affairs

Michael McLoughlin, Connect Ireland

Ciara Kenny, Generation Emigration, Irish Times

Andrea Pappin, All About Jobs Campaign Co-ordinator

VC Link-up: Consulate Sydney

11.00–11.30

Tea/Coffee

11.30–12.30

**'Diaspora Engagement - Past, Present and Future -
How and Why Diaspora Matters', Kingsley Aikins**

12.30–13.15

**Presentation by John Concannon
Director of the Ireland 2016 Project Team**

13.15–14.00

Lunch

14.00–15.30

and

16.00–17.30

WORKSHOPS FOR IRISH COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS

3 workshops running concurrently over two sessions, with the opportunity for each delegate to participate in two of the three. See next page for details.

WORKSHOP A: FUNDRAISING

La Touche Room

Facilitator: *Siobhán Lyons, Irish Immigration Center, Philadelphia*

Key participants:

Jane Noonan, Ireland Funds Canada

Mark Carrigan, Ireland Funds, Great Britain

Seamus McGarry, Ireland Funds, Great Britain

Dennis O'Connor, 2 into 3

WORKSHOP B: COMMUNICATION

President's Room

Facilitator: *Liam Kennedy, UCD Clinton Institute*

Key participants:

Ralph Victory, Communications Unit, DFA

Steve Lenox, Irish Network USA

Joe O'Brien, Crosscare

Caroline Murphy, Avondale Media

WORKSHOP C: GOVERNANCE ISSUES

Talbot Room

Facilitator: *Jennie McShannon, Irish in Britain*

Key participants:

Eva Gurn, Boardmatch

Sean Kennedy, London Irish Centre

Rita Corrigan, Irish in Britain

Joe Thompson, Irish Australian Support Association

15.30–16.00	Coffee Break
16.00–17.30	<i>Workshops continue</i>
17.30–18.00	Coffee Break
18.00–18.15	Round up summary from workshops – <i>Liam Kennedy</i>
18.15–18.30	Closing Remarks by <i>Minister for Diaspora Affairs Jimmy Deenihan T.D.</i>



STEPHEN AHERNE

A native of Cappamore, Co. Limerick, Stephen graduated from UCC with a Degree in Law & Irish, and later from UL with a Masters in European & Comparative Law. Stephen lived in Australia for three years before moving to San Diego in 2010 on a one year visa initially and then permanently in 2013. He became Executive Director of Irish Outreach San Diego in February 2014. Irish Outreach

San Diego is the Southern California member Center of the Coalition of Irish Immigration Centers and assists clients from Santa Barbara in the north all the way to the Mexican border in the South.



KINGSLEY AIKINS

Kingsley Aikins is Dublin born and educated and is an Economics and Politics graduate of Trinity College. He is the founder and CEO of Diaspora Matters which primarily focuses on advising governments on how to develop strategies to connect with their Diasporas. He has worked with over 30 countries and major agencies such as the World Bank, the EU, the International Organisation for

Migration and the Migration Policy Institute. He has lived in 6 countries and worked for the Irish Trade Board, IDA Ireland and The Ireland Funds. He has written and spoken extensively on Diaspora, Philanthropy and Fundraising and has developed an online/offline Networking Training Programme. He is married with 3 children and now lives in Dublin.



CLAIRE BARRY

Claire Barry is Executive Director of Mind Yourself a charity which works to improve the mental and physical wellbeing of the London Irish community. Claire has lived in London since 2009 and took up her current role in 2011. She had spent the previous 9 years working as an Organisation Development Consultant in Ireland and UK, in the not for profit and statutory sectors. Claire has a BSc(Ed) from UL,

Post Grad Diplomas in Dispute and Conflict Resolution and in Child Protection and Welfare from Trinity College, and an MA in Advanced Organisation Consultation and Change from Tavistock Institute.



MARK J. CARRIGAN

Mark is Managing Director of the Ireland Funds, Great Britain. He is passionate about facilitating collective social impact and has spent more than ten years guiding an array of organisations and individuals on combined funding goals exceeding \$490 million. Specialising in strategy and high value relationship management, Mark has worked with universities, NGO's, social enterprises, international corporations and state bodies across the world to transform their fundraising, CSR & philanthropy programmes. In 2009 Mark was elected to the inaugural board of Fundraising Ireland and later joined the teaching faculty at both Fundraising Ireland and the Institute of Fundraising in the UK. Prior to this Mark had a successful career in investment banking serving clients in EMEA, America and Asia.



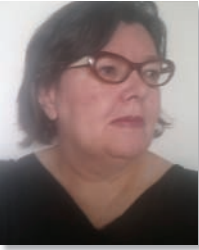
MICHAEL CARROLL

Michael Carroll is a native New Yorker with extensive ties to Ireland. He is the Chair of The Council for American Ireland Relations and Board Member of the Emerald Isle Immigration Center. He is General Council for the New York Gaelic Athletic Association and lawyer with O'Dwyer & Bernstien, LLP, the firm founded by William O'Dwyer, Mayo native and former Mayor of New York City. He was appointed as the Northern Ireland Liaison for the Brehon Law Society of New York. A Board Member of Irish American Democrats and a member of the Finance Committee, Hillary Clinton 2015.



JOHN CONCANNON

John Concannon is Director of "Ireland 2016", the State Centenary Programme to Commemorate 1916, Reflect on the republic 100 years on, and Re-imagine our future. He was selected as Irish "Marketer of the Year" in 2011 for his work marketing Ireland, and was nominated again in 2013 as the Creator of "The Gathering Ireland 2013". He is Chairman of Gaisce – The President's Award, and is a Co-Creator of Ashoka Irelands Change Nation. He is Chairman of COPE a Galway charity for homelessness & domestic violence. John is a graduate of the NUI Galway and holds a BComm, MBS and HDMP.



RITA CORRIGAN

Rita Corrigan joined Irish in Britain 10 years ago, and is the Development Service Manager. She has over 30 years experience in the voluntary sector, following employment in Local Government economic and community development departments. She leads a team supporting and working with member organisations to build their capacity or co-develop projects. This includes sharing new ideas and responding to change, finding solutions and resolving problems. She enjoys the challenges and rewards that come with being involved with such a diverse range of members, from smaller community groups to larger clubs and providers, all contributing to the cultural, health and welfare needs of the Irish community in Britain.



SINÉAD CROWLEY

Sinéad joined the Irish International Business Network (www.iibn.com) in London as Executive Director in 2011. IIBN is a global not for profit business network whose primary objective is to support, connect and mentor Irish entrepreneurs and professionals in London, New York and Ireland. Sinéad also implements IIBN's Future Leaders Programme which is co-financed by the ESP. Originally from Cork, Sinéad worked as Projects Manager with the South West Regional Authority in Ireland for c15 years on EU and Nationally funded programmes related to regional and socio-economic development. Sinéad has a Joint Honours Arts Degree from UCC and Post Graduate Diploma in Law from College of Commerce Rathmines. When not working at IIBN Sinéad co-ordinates fundraising, events and corporate partnerships at UK registered Irish Charity icap (www.icap.org.uk) which provides c10,000 counselling sessions annually to predominantly Irish clients across the UK. Sinéad is also a UK member of the Irish Emigrant Services Advice Committee since 2013.



JIMMY DEENIHAN, T.D.

Jimmy Deenihan, TD was appointed to his role as Minister for the Diaspora on July 11, 2014, having previously served as Minister for Arts, Heritage & Gaeltacht Affairs. He has continuously served in Dáil Éireann since first being elected in 1987. Prior to that from 1982-1987, he was a Taoiseach's nominee to Seanad Éireann. Minister Deenihan was previously a member of Kerry Co. Co. from 1985 to 1994, and a member of Kerry County Vocational Education Committee from 1985 to 1991. From 1992 to 1994 he was also a member of the Kerry County Enterprise Board and was re-elected to Kerry Council in June 1999. A member of the GAA, Minister Deenihan won a number of All-Ireland football medals with Kerry and received a GAA All-Star Award in 1981.



PÁRAIC DUFFY

Páraic Duffy is the 18th Director General of the Gaelic Athletic Association (GAA). The GAA is an Irish and international sporting and cultural organisation which was founded in 1884 to promote the Gaelic games of hurling, gaelic football, handball and rounders. With 2,000 clubs, it is Ireland's largest sporting organisation and has considerable reach to communities throughout Ireland and to the diaspora through 400 clubs in North America, Britain, Asia and Europe. Páraic served as GAA Player Welfare Manager from January 2007 and became its Director General in February 2008. Before joining the GAA, he was the first Lay Principal of St. Macartan's College, Monaghan, one of Ireland's largest Catholic boy's second-level schools, from August 1996 until January 2007.



DENISE FLANAGAN

Denise was raised in Kells, Co Meath. She has been working for the Consulate General of Ireland in Auckland, New Zealand, since 2006 and was appointed Honorary Vice Consul in 2013. Denise is responsible for the day to day management of the Consular Office which processes applications for Irish passports, citizenship and visas. One of her prime roles is to assist Irish citizens in distress as a result of accident, illness, crime, or death. Immediately following the February 2011 earthquake in Christchurch, Denise was based in the city and provided assistance and practical support to hundreds of affected Irish citizens. Working with the Irish Societies, community and GAA throughout New Zealand is an integral part of Denise's role.



JOAN FREEMAN

Joan Freeman is founder of Pieta House, a centre for the prevention of self-harm and suicide which she opened in 2006 due to a lack of suicide prevention services at the time. Pieta House is the only organisation in the country providing a free, professional, face to face, therapeutic service for people in the acute stages of distress. In September 2011 Joan was presented with the People of the Year Award by An Taoiseach, Enda Kenny, to acknowledge her remarkable achievements in the area of suicide prevention. She completed her Masters in Psychology in 2005 and is a member of the Irish Association of Suicidology, the Psychological Society of Ireland and the British Psychological Society and recently published her first book, *Cover Up - Understanding Self-Harm* in 2010. Joan will now be focussing future activities on creating an international base for Pieta House and its services. Her role will also lead the

international expansion of Darkness into Light with new venues to be added in the UK, USA, Australia and Canada.



EVA GURN

Eva is the Manager at Boardmatch Ireland. She is a graduate of the National University of Galway with an honours degree in Economics and Social Studies and is also a graduate of National University of Ireland, Maynooth. Eva joined Boardmatch Ireland in March of 2011 as the Corporate Services Officer and recently was appointed to the position of Manager. Eva has a strong interest in the not-for-profit sector and was involved in a number of community outreach projects before joining the Boardmatch team. She is currently completing a Masters in Management and Corporate Governance through the University of Ulster.



NIAMH HAMILL

Dr. Niamh Hamill is the director of the Institute of Study Abroad Ireland, founded in 1996. The Institute of Study Abroad Ireland delivers programs of study and cultural learning for schools, colleges and students from the USA. Niamh, who has an M.A. in American Studies from the Clinton Institute at UCD and a Ph.D in Irish History from Drew University, NJ, has been involved at all levels of marketing, planning and delivering educational experiences for students. Her current projects include a Community College program for faculty-led groups, the Transatlantic Connections Conference in Jan 2016, and the launch of semester study programs for US College students in Donegal in 2017.



MARTY KAVANAGH

Marty Kavanagh, Honorary Consul in Western Australia, was born in Cork and migrated to Western Australia in 1991. Educated at University College Cork, the University of Western Australia and Curtin University Marty holds degrees in Commerce, Law and a Post-graduate Diploma in Journalism. Marty has also tutored in ethics at Curtin University. The Principal of Kavanagh Family Lawyers Western Australia, Marty's particular areas of legal focus are Property and Children's matters (particularly Hague Convention cases, relocation cases) and Violence Restraining Orders. Marty currently writes the WA Restraining Order legal commentary for Dickey's Family Law. Apart from his partner Richard Matias, Marty's other passion is the Aussie Rules footy team the Fremantle Dockers.



LIAM KENNEDY

Professor Liam Kennedy is Director of the Clinton Institute at University College Dublin. He has diverse research and teaching experiences, spanning fields of intellectual history, communications studies and international relations. He has published widely in these fields and is the recipient of major research awards in the UK, the US and Ireland. He is currently researching and writing on media and international conflict, including the role of diaspora networks on conflict transformation. He is the co-author of *Supporting the Next Generation of the Irish Diaspora* (2014), a research report for the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.



SEÁN KENNEDY

Seán is Chair of The London Irish Centre charity, based in Camden Town, London. The charity was formed in 2013 from the merger of the London Irish Centre and the Irish Charitable Trust charities, collectively they had served the Irish community in the UK for 103 years. Last year the charity provided welfare support to over 13,000, while close to 60,000 visited for a range of arts and cultural events.

Sean moved to the UK in the late '80s and set up a building company which was sold in 2002. He is a property investor and involved in a number of start-up and early stage businesses in the UK. Outside of the business world he created a public speaking training programmes called the Speak Out Challenge, which has trained over 130,000 teenagers, raised £6m in funding and is the world's largest youth speaking event.



CELINE KENNELLY

A native of Moyvane, County Kerry, Celine Kennelly emigrated to San Francisco in 1999. She is Executive Director of the Irish Immigration Pastoral Center, a non-profit front line services organization assisting Irish immigrants in San Francisco and the Bay Area. Celine is the recipient of several awards and recognitions of her work with the Irish and Irish American communities, including “Woman of the Year” for the California 12th Assembly District, SF Commission on the Status of Women’s “Women’s History Month Award,” the Irish Voice’s “50 Most Influential Irish Women in the U.S.” award; and the “Service Partner Award” for Catholic Charities. She currently serves as President of the Coalition of Irish Immigration Centers, Chair of the San Francisco Immigrant Rights Commission and a Board member of the Irish Apostolate USA and Irish Lobby for Immigration Reform.



CIARA KENNY

Ciara Kenny is a journalist with *The Irish Times*. She has curated the Generation Emigration project on irishtimes.com since 2011, which provides an editorially controlled platform for Irish people living abroad to share their stories, experiences and opinions, as well as updates on visas and other issues of interest. She writes a weekly feature for the Irish Life Abroad section in Weekend Review, and also works regularly on the online news team.



STEVE LENOX

Steve serves as President of Irish Network USA, the umbrella organization for chapters across the United States, providing a vehicle and resource for Irish, Irish-Americans, and friends of Ireland to join together to ‘invest’ in Ireland and bolster relationships through business, arts, culture, education and sports. There are currently 19 chapters of Irish Network USA with efforts under way to launch chapters in an additional eight cities. Steve is also the Founder and President of Lenox Consulting, a U.S. and Ireland based strategic communications consulting firm providing business development, public affairs, media relations and political consulting services to a variety of clients including William Fry, one of Ireland’s most recognized and respected law firms and the New Jersey Firefighters’ Benevolent Association. A dual citizen, Steve has built an extensive network of government and business leaders in Ireland, where his wife Aoife owns and manages a successful small business, and they are currently raising their three children Conor, Cian and Dylan.



SIOBHÁN LYONS

Siobhán Lyons is the executive director of the Irish Immigration Center, a non-profit dedicated to supporting immigrants and promoting citizenship. Born in Dublin, Siobhán moved to Philadelphia in 2006 to work for the World Affairs Council. Prior to moving to the United States, she served as a diplomat in the Irish Department of Foreign Affairs. She is involved in several non-profit organizations, including Irish Network-Philadelphia, The Delaware Valley Irish Hall of Fame and the Duffy’s Cut Project. She is a graduate of the School of Oriental and African Studies in London, where she specialized in Arabic literature. She lives in South Philadelphia with her immigration reform dog, Breac.



YVONNE MACNAMARA

Yvonne is a founding member and current Chief Executive of the Traveller Movement a leading civil society organisation in the UK. Yvonne has been living and working in London since 1989. She has worked in the voluntary and community sector on a wide range of issues concerning BAME communities. Most of this time has been spent working within in the field of Race Equality and Social Justice. She is a well seasoned campaigner with numerous success stories and award winning projects under her belt. Yvonne is a trustee of a number of charities and also sits on advisory boards across the public sector within the UK ensuring the inclusion of Traveller issues on the wider agenda.



SEAMUS MCGARRY

Seamus emigrated to London from Johnstown, Co. Kilkenny in 1957. He joined the GPO Telecommunications section (now BT Group) and completed 33 yrs service. He has been an active member of the Irish community in the UK including former Chairman of the Federation of Irish Societies (now Irish in Britain), Director of Safe Start Foundation and Trustee of the Irish World Heritage Centre in Manchester, Trustee of the Irish Centre in London and member of the Transfrontier Committee. Currently he is Director of the Irish Culture Centre in London, a Trustee of the Ireland Funds of Great Britain, Patron of Irish Heritage London and a committee member of the GAA all Britain competition. In 2013 he was given the Presidential Distinguished Service Award.



MICHAEL MCLOUGHLIN

Michael McLoughlin is the CEO of ConnectIreland- an incentivised referral programme appointed by IDA Ireland to deliver the Succeed in Ireland initiative. Michael is a foreign direct investment (FDI) specialist who has worked internationally in both the public and private sectors. He began his career with IDA Ireland developing inward investment in the financial services sector. He later moved to Chicago with IDA where he was initially responsible for securing investment projects for Ireland in electronic and engineering technology sectors and later in life sciences such as pharmaceutical and medical device companies. In 2002, Michael moved to the private sector where he was responsible for building electronics businesses for a group of private investors. He later joined International Business Development Group Limited (IBDG) in the UK, a specialist consultancy in economic development and trade investment, where he worked as a director for ten years.



JENNIE MCSHANNON

Jennie McShannon has led Irish in Britain since 2009. Her background is in developing and managing a range of services for individuals and groups with complex needs. She oversees the strategic and representative role of Irish in Britain, building stakeholder alliances with government

Ministers in Britain and Ireland, across the membership, the wider community and the mainstream voluntary and community sector. She has led a number of high profile campaigns including the 2011 general election campaign Make Irish Votes Count, Census 2011 and Diaspora Voice. She draws on the expertise and dynamism of her board and team and the vibrant membership of Irish in Britain.



PATRICK MORRISON

Patrick Morrison has been the development officer for Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann in Britain for over nine years. As the senior staff member for the organisation in Britain he has spearheaded the development of this worldwide voluntary organisation not only in Britain but also through advising the organisation in North America. As second generation Irish, born in Liverpool, he has never been far from the Irish

community in Britain through his family, work and volunteering. He is currently a trustee of Irish in Britain, the Liverpool Irish Festival and St Michael's Irish Centre as well as being a member of the Chartered Management Institute.



GERARD MULLIGAN

Gerard graduated from DIT Kevin St in 1990 with a Degree in Applied Sciences (Physics and Math). He emigrated to Japan later that year to gain relevant work experience and with a plan for staying 2 years. 25 years later he is still in Japan and happily married to Junko his Japanese wife and with three beautiful boys ages 5, 7 and 9 years. He has worked in a number of technical positions in the automotive, flat panel

and financial industries. He currently works for Thomson Reuters where he is responsible for Technical Account Management in Asia and SOO Thomson Reuters Japan. He is the current President, Irish Japan Chamber of Commerce.

SALLY MULREADY



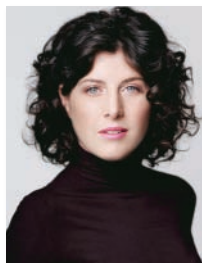
Sally's family comes from West Cork, though Sally was born in a Mother and Baby Home in Dublin. She was appointed by President Michael D Higgins as a Member of the Council of State and is the first member of the Irish diaspora to have been appointed to this role. She has been an elected Labour Party councillor in London since 1997. Sally is also the Director of the Irish Elderly Advice Network, a London-based charity for older Irish people. The charity provides welfare and cultural support throughout London and has helped older Irish people access several millions in previously unclaimed pensions, health related entitlements and other sources of income. Sally has been key to securing Irish government recognition for 'survivors', women, men and children who spent time in Irish institutional care run by the religious orders in Ireland, establishing an Irish Survivors Women's Group in the UK in the 1990s. She was awarded the Presidents Distinguished Award for Services to the Irish Community in the UK and is Chairperson of East London Comhaltas Branch - the oldest branch of CCE in Britain.

CAROLINE MURPHY



Caroline is a well-known broadcaster who can be heard presenting 'It Says in the Papers' on Morning Ireland. She has had a successful and varied career in broadcasting, from her early days as a presenter reporter in RTÉ Radio Sport, to the 13 years she spent as an RTÉ TV Sports producer. During those years she was responsible for many of the station's top sporting transmissions, including Sydney 2000 and The Sunday Game but over the years, she worked in many other areas in RTÉ too. In her time in the Newsroom, she presented Morning Ireland, in TV Features, she presented 'Family Matters' and in radio, she was a producer on the agenda-setting 'Gay Byrne Show'. Since leaving RTÉ in 2002, Caroline has qualified as an organisational psychologist and she now combines her work as a broadcaster and producer with a communications consultancy. Caroline is married to RTÉ's Seán O'Rourke.

CATHY MURPHY



Cathy is the Inaugural Executive Director of the Irish Canadian Immigration Centre and the Director of Communications for the Ireland-Canada Chamber of Commerce-Toronto. Previously, she was the Artistic Producer of MacKenzieRo: The Irish Repertory Theatre Company of Canada. Cathy has been a guest speaker for the Ireland-Canada Business Gathering in Dublin; the United Brotherhood

of Carpenters; Harbourfront WorldStage; the European Union Film Festival; and Life Long Learning; and has interviewed Booker-Award Winning Author Roddy Doyle for the Ireland Fund of Canada at the TIFF Bell LightBox. In addition to writing for Irish Connections Canada and Celtic Connections, Cathy wrote and broadcast an original work on CBC Radio (“Vocal Passages”); co-wrote and produced the theatre piece “Teacht i dTír” (based on the Irish arrival of 1847) which was used at Ryerson University as a teaching tool in the Department of Social Work; co-developed the bilingual play (“The Rake’s Progress: Do You Know Where Tom Rakewell Is?”) presented as a workshop at The Canadian Stage Company and the Druid Theatre of Galway; and facilitated a cross-Atlantic, bi-lingual project connecting school children in Ireland with children in Regent’s Park Toronto.



JANE NOONAN

Jane has been the Executive Director of the Ireland Fund of Canada since 2011. Prior to joining the Ireland Fund she held progressively senior communications positions in the health care and financial services sectors. She has broad experience in communications and stakeholder relations and a proven ability to build effective relationships with clients and partners at all levels. Jane is very involved in the Irish community in Toronto and sits as a board member with the Irish Canadian Immigration Centre. She also helped organize two trade missions between the Ireland Canada Chamber of Commerce and the Ireland Canada Business Association. Jane is an active member of her community and is the Chair of the Affinity Committee in Toronto for Memorial University of Newfoundland. She is an active board member and past vice-chair of Camp Ekon and regularly volunteers for the Smiling Land Foundation.



JOE O'BRIEN

Joe O'Brien is the recently appointed Irish Abroad Networking Officer for Crosscare Migrant Project in Dublin. In his previous role as Policy Officer Joe has carried out significant campaigning and research in the area of Irish emigration. He led the campaign in 2010 to change the guidelines on welfare access for returning emigrants. Joe has written a number of critical reports of the Irish welfare and immigration system and last year he completed a report on the experiences of 500 recent Irish emigrants that has been developed into the web resource for Irish emigrants www.mindhowyougo.ie



DENNIS O'CONNOR

Dennis is Director of 2into3, Ireland's specialist advisors and capacity builders for the not-for-profit sector. Dennis supports clients to scale impact, develop sustainability, build leadership and innovate. Dennis is the project manager of the Arts Council's RAISE - The Business of Arts Fundraising programme. Results to date show a 52% growth in fundraised income amongst the 10 participating organisations, with a number fundraising on an international scale. Dennis has served as Executive Director of Clongowes Wood College Foundation, as well as Interim Director of S.H.A.R.E. He has been a Technology Entrepreneur and was a business unit Managing Director and Divisional Head of Strategy for Glanbia plc.



TIM O'CONNOR

Tim runs his own advisory business, providing strategic support to companies across a range of sectors from financial services, healthcare to renewable energy. Tim worked in the Irish Public Service from 1972 to early 2010, most recently as Secretary General to the President. He served in the Department of Foreign Affairs from 1979-2007, and was Consul General of Ireland New York from 05-07. He also holds or has held in recent years several not-for-profit positions, including Chairmanship of the Advisory Board of the Gathering Ireland 2013 and Chairmanship of the Clinton Institute for American Studies at UCD from 2010-15. Tim holds honorary doctorates from NUI Maynooth (2005), Quinnipiac University (Connecticut, USA) (2007) and the University of Ulster (2009).



MARION O'HAGAN

Marion O'Hagan has been intimately involved with the Irish community in Australia for over 30 years. From sponsoring the Irish Australian Support and Resource Bureau through her business in the 1980's to her management and direction of the many aspects of Irish culture in Melbourne, Marion's commitment is ongoing. Through her management and artistic direction in such events as 'Irish Festival - Immigration Museum', 'Celtic Nations', Celtic Arts Down Under', 'Melbourne Irish Festival' and her broad-casting on 3ZZZ Irish programme, Marion's commitment and involvement over the past 3 decades continues to have a positive effect on the promotion of the social, ethnic, artistic and cultural life of the Irish community in Melbourne. Marion was appointed as the administrator of the Irish Australian Support & Resource Bureau in 1999 and this continues to be her passion. The IASRB, the first Bureau of its kind in Australia, is recognised as an essential component in the life of the established and the newly arrived Irish in Melbourne.



ANDREA PAPPIN

Andrea Pappin works in the Department of the Taoiseach, co-ordinating a number of jobs-related information campaigns. The 'All About Jobs' campaigns help small business and jobseekers know about the range of Government supports available to them. These include bringing together all government supports for businesses in one online location (Supporting SMEs Campaign), a guide for jobseekers to find out what skills programmes they qualify for (Skills To Work) and a website and weekly e-newsletter that capture all the latest Government jobs news, events and useful statistics ('All About Jobs' on Merrion Street website). Previous to this role, Andrea was the Spokesperson for the 2013 Irish EU Presidency and has also run her own communications business.



JOE THOMPSON

Born 1941 in Dromore, Co Tyrone, he registered as a Pharmacist in 1965 and worked in hospital pharmacy, community pharmacy and in the Medical Sales Division of the Wellcome Foundation. He emigrated to Australia in 1976 and retired from pharmacy in January 1999. Joe joined the Archdiocese of Brisbane as a Parish Support Manager in June 1999 before retiring in 2012. He joined Rotary in 1980 and was *President* of the club on three occasions. He is Director of Irish Australian Support Association of Queensland since 2008 and Secretary since 2012. He is married to Gabrielle, they have 3 children and 3 grandchildren.



RALPH VICTORY

Ralph Victory is Director of Communications at the Department of Foreign Affairs & Trade in Dublin. He was previously assigned as Press & Information Officer at Ireland's Embassy in Washington D.C. His other previous roles have included extensive work in relation to the Northern Ireland peace process and assignments at Ireland's Permanent Representation to the E.U. in Brussels, in Political Division at the Department of Foreign Affairs & Trade and at Ireland's Embassy in Warsaw, Poland.



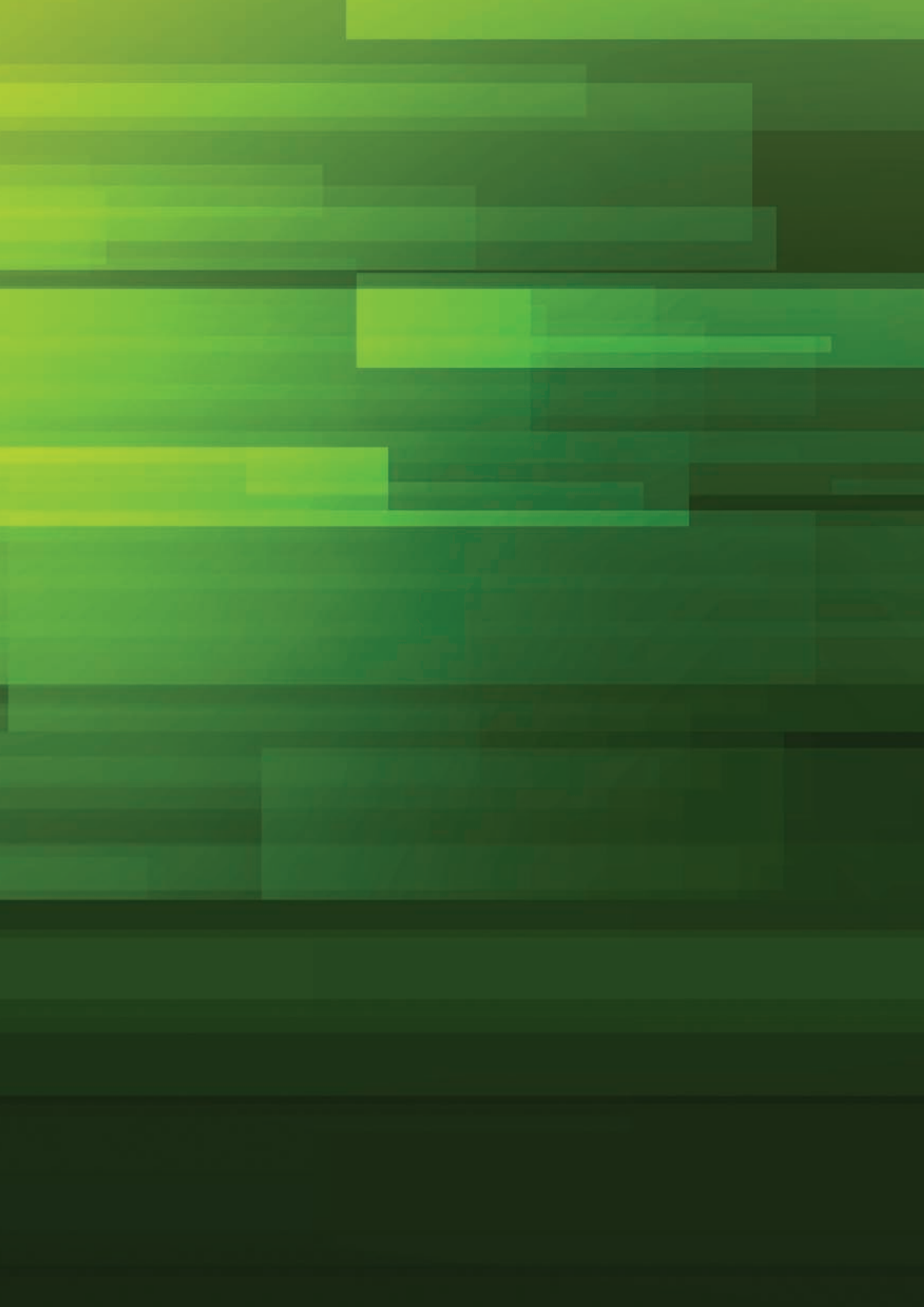
NANCY WORMINGTON

Nancy Wormington is Executive Director of the Irish Cultural Center in Kansas City, Missouri, a position she has held since September, 2010. Nancy has spent 30 years working in the not-for-profit sector, where she gained invaluable experience in program development, volunteer management, fundraising and public relations – all of which are needed in her current position! When not working on all things Irish, Nancy enjoys travelling and is looking forward to her first trip to New Zealand later this year.

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