



IRELAND UNITED STATES  
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

## IUSA Annual Conference



### 'SUSTAINABLE LEADERSHIP: STRENGTHEN PARTNERSHIP'

 30th January 2025

 Westbury Hotel, Dublin

 <https://www.irishusalumni.com/conference>



**JOIN  
THE  
IUSA!**



# Your Conference

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The Irish U.S. Alumni Association is delighted to welcome you to this year's IUSA Conference. We delighted to welcome our members once again to this event and look forward to the networking with new IUSA friends and colleagues.

This year, our conference title is '**Sustainable Leadership: Strengthen Partnerships**'. The format of the conference will include lightning talks of 7 minutes each, followed by moderated panel discussion and audience Q&A.

Following the conference, the IUSA Distinguished and Emerging Leader Awards will be presented to alumni who have demonstrated exemplary leadership in our community. We are also honoured to receive an address from the Deputy Chief of Mission, Chargé d'Affaires Mr Michael Clausen.

## Where & When

4:30pm until 10:00pm, 30th January 2024  
at The Westbury Hotel, Dublin

## How much?

€75 Conference is open to everybody.

## Twitter/X Hashtag

#IUSACon2025

## Dinner

Yes. Dinner is included. A three-course meal prepared by the Westbury chefs is included in the conference fee.

## How Do You Sign Up

Sign up through Paypal on the website  
<https://www.irishusalumni.com/conference>

## Annual Conference and Awards Programme

15.30 AGM for Irish US Alumni Members in the Grafton Suite

16.30 Conference Registration and Welcome Reception at the Grafton Suite

17.00 Lightning Talks: 'Bringing People Together in a Polarising World'

- MC Shane Coleman
- Ms. Lorna Martyn
- Former Ambassador to Washington, Mr Dan Mulhall
- Prof. Gary Murphy
- Mr Paul Sweetman, CEO AMCHAM

19:00 Networking Reception in The Sidecar Bar

20.00 Awards Dinner

*Presentation of Alumni Awards 2025*

- Dr. John Gilmore
- Professor. Siobhan Mullally

Address from Deputy Chief of Mission, Chargé d'Affaires Mr Michael Clausen

22.00 Event ends



## Our Line Up

We have a mixture of keynote speakers and interactive discussions throughout the programme. Please check out our website for full updates and links to the speakers.

**Tweet throughout the day using our Twitter handle @irishusalumni #IUSACon2024**

[www.irishalumni.com/conference](http://www.irishalumni.com/conference)

### Mr. Shane Coleman

Shane Coleman is the presenter of Newstalk Breakfast. He is also a columnist for the Business Post. Previously he was Political Editor of Newstalk and for the Sunday Tribune Newspaper, where he also held the role of Business Editor. He is the author of four books on politics including *Bertie Ahern and the Drumcondra Mafia*, and *Scandal Nation*.

### Ms. Lorna Martyn

Ms. Lorna Martyn is the Ireland Regional Chair and Senior Vice President of Technology. She is a Technology Ireland board member, Junior Achievement Ireland non-Executive director, and a director on the Irish American Partnership board.

### Mr Dan Mulhall

Dan Mulhall, Former Irish Ambassador to Washington, a native of Waterford, Daniel Mulhall is a former Irish diplomat, author, and commentator, who has served as Ireland's Ambassador to Malaysia, Germany, the United Kingdom and the United States, and as Director-General for EU Affairs at the Department of Foreign Affairs. He was a member of the Irish Government's delegation to the negotiations that culminated in the Good Friday Agreement of 1998. Since his retirement in 2022, he has been Global Distinguished Professor of Irish Studies at Glucksman Ireland House, New York University, Parnell Fellow at Magdalene College, Cambridge and a Resident Fellow at the Institute of Politics, Harvard University. He is Honorary President of the Yeats Society (Sligo), a consultant with the global law firm, DLA Piper and with Rockwood Public Affairs, and a director of Carlichauns Entertainment, an animated children's entertainment venture based on Irish folklore.

### Prof. Gary Murphy

Gary Murphy is Professor of Politics in the School of Law and Government at Dublin City University. He is a member of the Royal Irish Academy and has held visiting professorships at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill and the University of Notre Dame. He has published extensively on modern Irish politics, including the bestselling biography of the former Taoiseach, Charles J. Haughey, and regularly appears in the print and broadcast media.

## **Mr. Paul Sweetman**

Mr Sweetman's most recent role was Managing Partner of the public affairs consultancy Instinctif Partners. He previously held a number of senior leadership roles with Ibec including Director of Financial Services Ireland, Director of Technology Ireland, Head of Transport & Public-Private Partnership Policy and, Environment Policy Executive. Mr Sweetman has served as a board member of Digital Europe, Fastrack into IT (FIT), Gaisce - The President's Award and the Data Governance Board for Ireland's Public Service. A graduate of UCD and Virginia Tech, USA, Paul also holds a Certificate in ESG from UC Berkeley Law and has completed leadership programmes at TU Dublin and Oxford University.

## **Deputy Chief of Mission, Chargé d'Affaires Mr Michael Clausen**

Chargé d'Affaires Mr Michael Clausen arrived in Dublin as Deputy Chief of Mission in August 2022. Since joining the State Department in 2002, Mike has served in a wide variety of policy, communications, and staff positions, including as spokesperson at the U.S. Mission to the European Union, Director of the North Korea Unit in the Office of Korean Affairs, Deputy Chief of Staff at Embassy Kabul, and Watch Officer in the Executive Secretariat's Operations Centre. Mike's other overseas assignments include postings in Beijing, Singapore, Baghdad, Taipei, and, most recently, Kyiv. In Washington he has also served in the Office of the Special Representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan and in the Office of Chinese Affairs.

Mike earned a Bachelor's degree in Political Science at Columbia University and a Master's degree in National Security Studies at the U.S. Naval War College in Newport, Rhode Island. He is joined in Dublin by his wife, also a Foreign Service Officer, and their two children.

## **Ms. Julia Carmichael**

Julia Carmichael is the current President of the Ireland US Alumni Association. Julia is the first Chief Risk Officer to be appointed in Trinity College in Dublin. She is the former Chief Compliance Officer for IPB Insurance with over 15 years' experience in retail /commercial banking, investments, and insurance. She has significant experience in delivering change management across governance, compliance, risk management and operational structures. She holds qualifications in Company Direction, M.Sc. in Compliance and Governance, Data Protection and Risk Management. She has lectured on operational risk, data protection as well as Solvency II. She is a director on several boards ranging from the Residential Tenancy Board to Chair of the Audit Committee for the Department of Transport. She is also a former city councillor having served 10 years in Dublin City Council, was elected as the first female group leader during her tenure, and chaired various committees ranging from the DCC Arts, Culture, Leisure, and Recreation Committee to the DCC Economic and Enterprise Committee.

## **Ms. Rita Melia**

Rita Melia is the current Vice President of the Irish US Alumni Association. Dr Rita Melia is a lecturer in Early Childhood Education and Care at Atlantic Technological University Galway / Mayo, she was a Fulbright scholar at Harvard Graduate School of Education in 2016-2017, under the supervision of Professor Howard Gardner. Rita is passionate about the importance of quality early childhood experiences on lifelong learning development and wellbeing.



## **Distinguished and Emerging Leader Alumni Awards**

## **Dr. John Gilmore**

As Subject Head for Adult General Nursing and Assistant Professor at University College Dublin, Dr. Gilmore integrates social justice and intersectionality into his teaching and research. A distinguished Fulbright HRB Health Impact Scholar, he deepened his connection to the United States in 2022 as a visiting scholar at the University of California, San Francisco, and Columbia University, where he advanced healthcare models for sexual and gender minorities.

Dr. Gilmore's clinical expertise spans intensive care, emergency medicine, and sexual health, complemented by a PhD focused on the healthcare experiences of Irish gay men. He has presented his work internationally and serves as Co-Chair of UCD's Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans, and Intersex Staff Network, Chair of Leargas, and a member of the Journal of Advanced Nursing Editorial Board.

## **Professor Siobhan Mulally**

As the Established Professor of Human Rights Law and Director of the Irish Centre for Human Rights at the University of Galway, Professor Mullally has combined academic excellence with a commitment to tackling global challenges. Her distinguished career includes serving as the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Trafficking in Persons and as President of the Council of Europe's GRETA monitoring body. Professor Mullally's strong ties to the United States have been instrumental in her work. As a 2009–10 Fulbright Scholar and Senior Fellow at Columbia University, she advanced critical research in gender and human rights law. She has also held visiting positions at leading U.S. institutions, including Harvard, Cornell, and Emory, fostering transatlantic collaboration on issues of trafficking, migration, and gender equality.