

For Immediate Release

Further Information:

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Ireland-U.S. Council Schedules Mid-February Winter Meeting Events In Palm Beach

*Provost of Dublin's Trinity College Is Guest Speaker At
Council Lunch at Beach Club on Thursday, February 14*

January 9, 2008; New York, NY: The Ireland-U.S. Council, a non-profit organization dedicated to enhancing links, especially business connections, between America and the Emerald Isle will again stage its Annual Winter Meeting in Palm Beach during the second week of February. The program of social events will include remarks by several Guest Speakers including the Provost of Trinity College Dublin, Dr. John Hegarty, Ireland's Ambassador to the United States, His Excellency Michael Collins and Ireland's Minister for Education, Ms. Mary Hanafin, TD.

Michael J. Gibbons, the President of the *Ireland-U.S. Council*, said "This is our sixteenth year to host a Winter Meeting in Palm Beach for our Council members in the United States and in Ireland. It is an annual event that has become very popular with the membership in the organization. The Council coordinates the dates with other Irish-American groups such as the *American Ireland Fund*, the *Irish Georgian Society*, *NICE (Northern Ireland's Children's Enterprises)* and others. This means that we have a very special calendar of activities with a critical mass of Ireland-related events one month ahead of St. Patrick's Day."

Mr. Gibbons continued "This year, the Council is pleased to have an opening night cocktail reception on Wednesday, February 13 hosted at the oceanfront home of William C. Finneran at which Ambassador Collins will receive a special presentation and will make some remarks on topics of key current interest in the bilateral relationships between America and Ireland. "

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On Thursday, February 14 Guest Speaker Dr. John Hegarty, Provost of Ireland's oldest university, the prestigious Trinity College Dublin will discuss the role of the university in society at a lunch at The Beach Club. For those interested in attending, please contact Mike Gibbons at (561) 655 1832. Luncheon tickets are \$150.

The Council is also honored to have Ms. Mary Hanafin TD, Ireland's Minister for Education as a Guest Speaker. Ms. Hanafin is a senior member of the Irish Government's Cabinet and will deliver remarks at a private black-tie dinner hosted by Council President Gibbons and his wife Cynthia for visitors and their guests on Friday, February 15.

There are some other Ireland-related events happening in the Palm Beach area close to the dates of the Council's 2008 Winter Meeting in February. This list includes contact details.

Monday, February 11, 2008

NICE Golf Tournament

Venue: The Fox Club
10664 Whooping Crane Way
Palm City, FL 34990

Contact: Kate Cunningham (845) 526-2571

Saturday, February 16, 2008

The Irish Georgian Society Dinner

Venue: At Home of Council-member Fred Krehbiel
136 El Vedado Way
Palm Beach, FL 33480

*Contact: Maribeth Welsh (212) 534 4849
irishgeorgian@nyc.rr.com*

Sunday, February 17, 2008

American-Ireland Fund Palm Beach Celebration

Venue: The Kessler Residence
Palm Beach, Florida 33480

Contact: Carla Capone (212) 213 1166

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