

**Ulster University Belfast. 20 Flax Trust/America Bursary Recipients graduated with the Advanced Diploma in Social Enterprise July 3rd**



The School for Social Enterprises in Ireland SSEI is a Flax Trust initiative 2005 with Ulster University to professionalise the Social Economy Sector. This was the first time that University accredited provision for senior executives, directors and aspiring managers in the third sector was made available.

To date Flax Trust /America has invested \$324,500 in this programme. 140 graduates including 23 Masters in Executive Leadership represent a who's who in the social economy sector. Our Master Classes continue to attract top policy and decisions makers across all sectors of government.

We thank Flax Trust/ America for making all of this possible.

**Queen's University Belfast School of Creative Arts received Flax Trust/America Music Bursaries August 5th**



Four young classical musicians received Flax Trust/America Bursaries. The Bursaries will assist the recipients who are in their final year of a music degree with their further studies. The overall winner received the Flax Trust Children of Lir Award. We thank Flax Trust/ America for making all of this possible.

#### FLAX TRUST EVENTS

Twenty-Seventh Annual Belfast Dinner, Europa Hotel - January 30th 2015

Twenty-Fifth Annual Washington DC Event The Hay-Adams, The Rooftop Terrace - November 24th 2015

#### BURSARY AWARDS:

- The Queen's University Belfast's School of Creative Arts Concert - August 5th 2015
- Young Musicians of the Future Concert at Camerata Ireland's Clondeboy Festival - August 20th 2015
- Cross Community Inter-School Choir Gala, FISCA, Belfast City Hall - December 3rd 2015
  - Barry Douglas and Camerata-Ireland in Concert with winning choirs St Malachy's College & Hazelwood Integrated College - December 22nd 2015
  - City of Belfast Youth Orchestra in Concert with winning Choirs Mercy College & Boys Model - January 2016
- School for Social Enterprises in Ireland SSEI and Ulster University Business School Social Enterprise Awards - July 3rd 2015
- Belfast Metropolitan College Trades Awards - September 2015



## FLAX TRUST

### Mission

*The Flax Trust as a registered charity, formed in Belfast in 1977, has as its Mission the reduction and, if possible, the elimination of community tensions and religious prejudices by creative engagement in economic and social development, education and training with inter-community activities including culture, the Arts, sport, health, social programmes, personal development and dedicated communication projects*

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**Charitable Organisation**

**We are very grateful to Mutual of America for this invaluable facility.**

Welcome to the Twenty-Fifth New York Annual Event

## FLAX TRUST BANQUET

### GUESTS OF HONOR

**James Nesbitt**

Actor, Presenter and Comedian  
Chancellor of Ulster University

**John J. Kelly, CPCU**

Managing Partner  
Hanover Stone Partners, LLC

**The "21" Club 21 West 52 Street**  
Wednesday, October 7th 2015



**Enrichment Through Respect for Difference**



BANQUET CHAIRMAN

JAMES E. QUINN  
President Emeritus Tiffany & Co.  
President Flax Trust/America

Honorary Banquet Co-Chairpersons

Danny Lopez British Consul General	Barbara Jones Consul General of Ireland
Norman Houston Counselor, Dir. Northern Ireland Bureau	William J. Flynn Chairman Emeritus Mutual of America
Thomas J. Moran, Chairman and CEO Mutual of America	John T. Sharkey CEO Kane Saunders and Smart
Thomas M. O'Brien Director and Audit Chair Prudential Insurance Mutual Funds	Diarmuid M. Hogan President and CEO Global Excess Partners LLC
Mary Higgins Clark Author	Mary J. Grace Restoration Design Consultant
Loretta Brennan Glucksman Philanthropist	James P. MacGilvray CEO JP Mac LLC
Joseph Browne Senior Advisor to the NFL Commissioner	Denis Curran, CEO Willowfield Ventures LLC
John D. Feerick, Sidney C. Norris Chair of Law in Public Service, Fordham University	John Fitzpatrick President CEO North America Fitzpatrick Hotel Group
Shaun T. Kelly Chief Operating Officer- Americas KPMG LLP	Brinda Holt Curley President and CEO Knowing by brinda
John Ryle Kezel Director The Campion Institute, Director for Prestigious Fellowships Fordham University	Edward A. McDermott Jr. President Ludwig Institute for Cancer Research
Michael J. Gibbons Chairman The Ireland-US Council Foundation	Senator George J. Mitchell DLA Piper

Banquet Committee

Orla Battersby	Jim Griffin	Allison Metcalfe
Doug Benson	Shawn Griffin	Anne Marie Moriarty
Dr. John Brennan	Gary Hanley	Niall Murray
Patricia Brennan	Andrea Haughian	Beverley Owen Stone
Carol Higgins Clark	Joseph Hummel	Cathy Toner
Emmanuel Dowdall	Fr Myles Kavanagh	Sr. Mary Turley
Alba Goebel	Edward J. Kenney	Lorraine Turner

Banquet Menu

Smoked Irish Salmon with Red Onion, Shaved Fennel Salad, Grapefruit and Chive Sour Cream

Seared Tenderloin of Beef with Red Wine Bordelaise Sauce  
Chef's Selection of Starch and Vegetable

Classic "21" Creme Brulee with Berries

Coffee Service

James Nesbitt

James Nesbitt is an actor, presenter and comedian from Northern Ireland. In 2010 he accepted the ceremonial position of Chancellor of Ulster University. Born in Ballymena, County Antrim, Nesbitt grew up in the nearby village of Broughshane, before moving to Coleraine. At the Riverside Theatre he made his acting debut at 13 yrs as the Artful Dodger in *Oliver* getting his equity card at 16 in *Pinocchio*. Acting had not initially appealed to him. He wanted to become a teacher like his father, and began a French degree at Ulster University. He left after a year opting for acting. He transferred to the Central School of Speech and Drama, University of London. After graduating he spent seven years performing in plays varying from the musical *Up on the Roof* (1987) to the political drama *Paddywack* (1994). His film debut was playing Fintan O'Donnell in *Hear My Song* (1991).



Nesbitt got his breakthrough in television in the romantic comedy-drama *Cold Feet* (1998–2003), winning numerous awards. His first significant film role was in *Waking Ned* (1998). In *Lucky Break* (2001) he made his debut as a film lead and then played Ivan Cooper in the television film *Bloody Sunday*, a turning point in his career. He won a British Independent Film Award and was nominated for the British Academy Television Award for Best Actor.

Nesbitt starred in *Murphy's Law* twice gaining Best Actor nominations at the Irish Film & Television Awards (IFTA). In 2007 he starred in Steven Moffat's *Jekyll*, earning a Golden Globe Award nomination in 2008; starred alongside Liam Neeson in *Five Minutes of Heaven* (2009); was a lead actor in the mini series *Occupation* (2009); starred in the movies *Outcast* (2010) and *The Way* (2010); portrayed Bofur in Peter Jackson's film adaptation of *The Hobbit* (2012-2014). His more recent roles include dramas *The Missing* and *Babylon*.

He has two daughters from his marriage to Sonia Forbes-Adam, and supports numerous charities: a patron of Wave (supports those traumatised by the Troubles); a UNICEF UK ambassador, working with HIV and AIDS sufferers, and former child soldiers in Africa: and an honorary patron of Youth Lyric, one of Ireland's largest theatre schools.

James was voted Northern Ireland's National Treasure in an event organised to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the National Lottery. In recent attendance at the University he has spoken of the importance of the continued investment in young people through higher education and launched INCORE's digital archiving project, designed to preserve personal accounts of the Northern Ireland conflict for future generations.

John J. Kelly CPCU

John J. Kelly is Managing Partner of Hanover Stone Partners, a diversified risk services company he founded in 2009. Hanover Stone Partners draws on a network of prominent senior risk advisors and partner firms to provide an array of high-level risk management services and consulting.

John has held senior leadership positions with major brokerages, including Aon, Arthur J. Gallagher, and Willis. His responsibilities have encompassed strategic planning, acquisitions and investments, operational management, sales and new business development, and client management. He has led property/casualty and employee benefits companies and directed operations across multiple coverage lines and business segments.



Prior to forming Hanover Stone Partners, John was President of Arthur J. Gallagher & Co. of N.Y., Inc. Earlier, he was an Executive Vice President at Aon's Global Large Corporate group, which targeted the Global Fortune 1,500. John spent 25 years with Willis and its U.S. predecessor firm, Corroon & Black holding a series of senior leadership positions with increasing responsibility, including: President and CEO, Willis Company of New York; Northeast Regional Director, and National Practice Leader, Willis Risk Solutions in North America. From 2001 - 2004, he focused on national business development and produced more than 20 new mega accounts for the firm. Before joining Willis, John was Corporate Senior Vice President, Frank B. Hall & Company where he had national brokerage responsibilities.

John earned a bachelor's degree in Accounting from Baruch College and an MBA from Rutgers University. He is active in numerous nonprofit organizations, including: the Advisory Council of the Weissman Center for International Business at Baruch College; The U.S. Advisory Board to the Michael Smurfit Graduate School of Business at University College Dublin; The Insurance Industry Charitable Foundation; the Ireland-United States Council for Commerce & Industry and a Director of Flax Trust/America.

A founding member of the Ireland Chamber of Commerce – USA (ICCUSA), John also was a Partner of the New York City Partnership; a member of CARE's Corporate Council; a Carnegie Hall Corporate Supporter; and Director and Secretary of the PROMESA Foundation, which is committed to revitalizing the South Bronx. He is a past director of the Insurance Brokers Association of New York, the New York Chapter of CPCU, and a past governor of the John Street Club. In 1996, John was awarded the Ellis Island Medal of Honor.

SNAPSHOT

2014 New York Banquet at The "21" Club



1. Bebhinn Gallen & Paul Gallen

2. President James E. Quinn & Diane Quinn

3. John T. Sharkey & Charlie Rose

4. Fr. Myles Kavanagh, Cathy & Jerry Toner

5. Lauren Galippo, Olivia Andrzejczak & Norah O'Donnell

6. Nan & Al Smith, John Conheeney & Mary Higgins Clark

7. Doug Benson, Mary J. Grace & Patrick Grace

8. Jill Saperstein, Dara Burke & Kathy Cicerale

9. Carolyn Hoff, Tim Lynch & Edward A. McDermott

10. Pattie Cunningham & Robert Reilly

11. Tom Dunne & Brendan Cahill

12. Danny Lopez & Lorraine Turner

13. Niall O'Dowd, Tom O'Brien & Barbara Jones
14. Sr. Mary Turley, Honoree Charlie Rose, Norah O'Donnell, Fr. Myles Kavanagh & Jim Quinn

15. Mary Dolan & Jacqui Kelliher

16. Orla Battersby & Ann Marie Moriarty

17. Jim Dale, Brinda Holt Curley & Fr. James Dorr CM

18. Fiona Dunne & Helen Lund

19. Beverley Owen Stone & Freda Kavanagh

20. John J. Kelly, Helen & Denis Curran

21. Joseph Browne & Fr. Myles Kavanagh

22. James MacGilvray, Norah O'Donnell, Sr. Mary Turley

23. Justin O'Connor & Andrea Haughian

24. Charlie Rose & Alba Goebel