

**Ulster Univeristy 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 decision 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 Annual

## FLAX TRUST WASHINGTON DC EVENT

### GUESTS OF HONOR

**Matthew R. Shay**

President and CEO  
National Retail Federation

**Megyn Kelly**

Anchor, The Kelly file  
Fox News Channel

### CHAIRPERSONS

**James M Boland**

President  
Boland  
Chair Flax Trust/America

**Michael D. McCurry**

President  
Public Strategies Washington Inc.  
Director Flax Trust/America

Tuesday, November 24th, 2015



### Hay Adams, The Rooftop Terrace

Across from The White House

**Champagne Reception/Breakfast: 8:00a.m. - 9:30a.m.**

Business Attire

Enrichment Through Respect for Difference

## BREAKFAST CO-CHAIRS

**James M. Boland**  
President  
Boland  
Chair Flax Trust/America

**Michael D. McCurry**  
President  
Public Strategies Washington Inc.  
Director Flax Trust/America

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## Breakfast Banquet

*Champagne Reception  
Plated Freshly Sliced Fruit*

**Constitution Avenue:** *Farm Fresh Scrambled Eggs with Chives and Crispy New Potatoes, Applewood Smoked Bacon and Sausage Links*

**Washington Circle:** *Cornflake Crusted Cranberry Focaccia French Toast, Carmelized Red Pears, Warm Maple Syrup, Applewood Smoked Bacon or Sausage Links*

*Breakfast Pastries, Vermont Creamery Butter and Housemade Preserves, Freshly Brewed Starbucks Coffee/Decaffeinated/Selection of Mighty Leaf Teas*

## Matthew R. Shay

Matthew Shay is president and CEO of the National Retail Federation, the world's largest retail trade association. He serves as chief advocate and spokesman for the nation's largest private-sector industry employer, responsible for creating one in four U.S. jobs – 42 million working Americans, generating \$2.6 trillion in annual GDP.

Since 2010, Shay has transformed NRF into Washington's most powerful voice supporting the retail industry, leading the organization to new levels of effectiveness on policy issues, increasing awareness of the industry's economic impact and expanding political engagement. Under his tenure, membership has more than doubled to 18,000, revenue has doubled and advocacy investments have grown significantly.

Shay's implementation of a new strategic plan for the organization, allocating new financial and human resources to government relations and advocacy, a new approach to communications and public affairs has led to legislative movement on patent litigation reform, sales tax fairness, data security; the creation of the *This is Retail* industry perception campaign; NRF's most successful Annual Convention in its 100 year history and the expansion of the NRF Foundation which awarded over \$1million in educational scholarships last year alone.

Shay previously served as president and CEO of the International Franchise Association, which represents more than 1,200 franchise companies in retail and other industries around the world. Shay has been recognised by CEO Update as one of the top 50 nonprofit chief executives in Washington. He serves on a number of boards and committees including the American Society of Association Executives, Good360, So Others Might Eat, the U.S. Capitol Historical Society, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Association Committee of 100 and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation.

He is a graduate of Wittenberg University Springfield, Ohio, the Ohio State University College of Law, and holds a master's degree in business administration from the Georgetown University McDonough School of Business. He also holds an honorary doctor of humane letters from Wittenberg University and an honorary degree of professional designation in merchandise marketing from the Fashion Institute of Design and Merchandising.

## Megyn Kelly

Megyn Kelly serves as anchor of FOX News Channel's (FNC), The Kelly File (weekdays 9-10pm/ET) and is based in New York. She joined the network in 2004 as a Washington-based correspondent.

Ranked as the number two program in cable news, The Kelly File focuses on late-breaking stories as well as in-depth investigative reports along with newsmaker interviews. The program capitalizes on Kelly's skills as a former litigator and provides a platform to discuss developing angles as events unfold, while embracing a stronger social media presence. Previously, Kelly anchored her own two-hour solo program, America Live, and co-anchored America's Newsroom with Bill Hemmer (weekdays 9-11 AM/ET)

During the 2012 and 2014 political seasons, Kelly served as co-anchor of FNC's America's Election HQ alongside Bret Baier. FNC was the top rated cable news channel on midterm election night 2014, (Nielsen) averaging 6.6 million viewers and besting three cable networks for the first time ever. In 2012, the network's election night coverage delivered a record-breaking 12 million viewers and finished first among cable news and only second among broadcast. Kelly contributed to the network's coverage of the 2008 presidential election and 2010 midterm election.

With FNC, Kelly has covered breaking news and reported live from numerous political events. Some of the major stories she's covered include, the 2013 government shutdown, the Boston Marathon bombing, the election of Pope Francis, the shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, C.T., coverage of the deadly EF5 tornado in Joplin, M.O and the 2010 Deepwater Horizon oil spill. Previously she reported from Blacksburg, V.A. on the Virginia Tech campus massacre and from Durham, N.C., the Duke University rape case involving three of the school's lacrosse players and broke new details that would ultimately help exonerate the defendants.

During her role as a correspondent, Kelly provided coverage of the confirmation hearings for U.S. Supreme Court Justice Samuel A. Alito Jr. and Chief Justice John Roberts. In 2009/2010, she co-hosted FNC's coverage of the confirmation hearings of Justices Sonia Sotomayor and Elena Kagan. Before joining FNC Kelly reported the 2004 presidential race and D.C. sniper case with WJLA-TV (ABC7).

Prior to her career in television news, Kelly practiced law as a corporate litigator at Jones Day for nine years and was an associate in the Chicago office of the law firm Bickel & Brewer LLP. In 2014, Kelly was listed as one of TIME magazine's 100 most influential people in the world. She earned her B.A. in Political Science from Syracuse University and a J.D. from Albany Law School, where she graduated with honors and served as editor of the Albany Law Review.

## SNAPSHOT 2014 Washington DC Event at the Hay Adams



1. Katie Rosenthal
2. Jim Boland, Brian, Sean Sr. & Sean Boland Jr.
3. Prof. Stephen Thomas, Meghan Murphy, Ambassador Anne Anderson, Prof. Pat O'Shea
4. Hon. James & DeDe Walsh
5. Susanna Goshko, John Hanley
6. Katie Nutt, Kevin Conmy, Pattie Cunningham
7. Kirk Brungard, Samantha Connelly
8. Sarah Heitkemper, Rosalie Gilroy, Lou Boland
9. Norah O'Donnell, Hon. Ed McElroy, Frank O'Donnell, Sr. Mary Turley
10. Joyce & John Flynn, Leslyee White
11. John Feehery, Fr. Myles Kavanagh, Honorees Hon. Susan Dobriansky & Mike McCurry, Sr. Mary Turley & Hon. James Walsh
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22. Angela Moore, Lisa Kardell
23. Min Oh, Von Van Brandt
24. Ralf Victory, Prof. Ross Lewin, Renee Shew
25. Serette Kaminski, Connie Cordovilla, La Tia Scott
26. Kate Lyons, Cheryl Marquis
27. Mike O'Neil Esq., Jay Hickey, Alan Dillon
28. Heather Foley, John Collins, Claire Rumpsa, Megan Malloy.