



A Magical Evening Awash in Green

2023 University of St. Thomas-Houston Irish Gala

Celebrates its Emerald Anniversary

The William J. Flynn Center for Irish Studies at the University of St. Thomas-Houston celebrated the Center's Emerald Anniversary on Friday, Nov. 17, at the Houstonian Hotel. The gala honored Michele Malloy, a longtime University of St. Thomas and Center for Irish Studies supporter. Nearly 300 friends of the Center raised more than \$309,000 for its 20th anniversary celebration, with monies benefiting the Center's programming, study abroad opportunities, and student scholarships.

A special guest at the gala was **The Honorary Robert Hull, Consul General of Ireland.**

Co-chairing the special evening washed in all things Emerald green were **Event Chairs Judith Raines '70 and her husband, Dave Kem.**

Msgr. William Young, pastor of St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church, **blessed the evening's dinner, festivities, and the Center's good works.** Mistress of Ceremonies **Lisa Malosky**, a longtime sports broadcaster, kept the highly spirited event moving as she introduced special guests, Irish dancing and music for entertainment, the beloved honoree, and more.

Kicking off the entertainment was an exceptional performance of traditional Irish dancing by the **Clann Kelly Dancers from the Clann Kelly School of Irish Dance in Houston.**

Honoree: Roasted & Toasted

The gala shined a spotlight on former UST Board Chair **Michele Malloy**, who was honored for her 20 years of advocacy of Irish Studies and her lifelong love of the Emerald Isle. Malloy was "Roasted and Toasted" to peals of good-humored laughter by **David Harvey and Gloria Portela and by Malloy's daughters Leigh Contreras and Kate Hayes, and her son Taylor Sherman.**

About the William J. Flynn Center for Irish Studies

The University of St. Thomas named the Center in honor of William J. Flynn, Chairman Emeritus of Mutual of America Life Insurance Company in New York, for his outstanding contributions to the Northern Ireland Peace Process.

The primary goals of the William J. Flynn Center for Irish Studies are to preserve Irish heritage and culture, promote peace and reconciliation, and deepen the appreciation of the contributions of the Irish and Irish Americans worldwide.

Under the direction of **Lori Gallagher, J.D.**, the Center has awarded scholarships to students of over \$950,000 since 2006. The Center also sponsors cultural events open to the public. These lectures, concerts, and storytelling events highlight all aspects of Ireland, Northern Ireland, and Irish America.

UST's William J. Flynn Center for Irish Studies is listed among the top 10 Irish Studies programs in the country.