

**George Mitchell Scholarship Fund**

**Annual Report and Audited Financial Statements 2019**

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Prepared by the US-Ireland Alliance and submitted to the Minister for Education and Skills pursuant to paragraph 6 of the agreement executed on the 1st day of June 2010 and entered into between the Minister for Education and Skills of Ireland and the US-Ireland Alliance for the purpose of giving effect to the George Mitchell Scholarship Fund Acts 1998 and 2010.

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## Section 1

### **The George J. Mitchell Scholarship Fund**

#### **Background to the George J. Mitchell Scholarship Program**

In 1998, the US-Ireland Alliance (USIA) a non-partisan, non-profit organization, established the George J. Mitchell Scholarship Program, a prestigious, competitive scholarship to enable American university graduates to pursue a year of study at institutions of higher learning in Ireland and Northern Ireland. The scholarship was named in honor of Senator Mitchell's pivotal contribution to the Northern Ireland peace process.

In order to allow the Irish Government (IG) to contribute to this program, the George Mitchell Scholarship Fund Act, 1998, was enacted to establish a Fund to support up to twelve scholarships per year for US students to study in Ireland or Northern Ireland at certain universities and other higher education institutions. The 1998 Act also empowered the Minister for Education and Science of Ireland to enter into an agreement with persons who will manage and control the Fund.

Scholars under the Mitchell program may attend any Irish university or institute of technology, the Irish School of Ecumenics or, in Northern Ireland, a university or other institution of higher education which the Minister specifies, provided that institution and any other relevant authority consents to this and, as with the universities, waives tuition, fees, and provides housing.

The first Mitchell Scholars began their studies in Autumn 2000. Up to twelve Scholars are selected each year. With the selection of the class of 2020, there are 230 Mitchell Scholars.

Following passage of the George Mitchell Scholarship Fund Act, 1998, an Agreement was signed between the Minister for Education & Science and the US-Ireland Alliance in March 1999 setting out, inter alia, the management and administration role of the US-Ireland Alliance in relation to the Fund. A subsequent endowment of IR£2 million was paid into the Fund in accordance with the Agreement.

#### **George Mitchell Scholarship Fund (Amendment) Act 2010**

In 2007, it was decided to increase the Irish Government's contribution to the George Mitchell Scholarship Program Fund by €20 million conditional on matching funding raised by the US-Ireland Alliance. Such matching funding must not include funding from public funds in Ireland or Northern Ireland. The purpose of the George Mitchell Scholarship Fund (Amendment) Act 2010, which was signed into law on 30 March 2010 and brought into operation on 1 June 2010, was to amend the George Mitchell Scholarship Fund Act, 1998, and to provide a legal basis for the implementation of the 2007 decision.

The main provisions of the amending Act include that the Minister shall make annual payments of up to € 4 million per annum into the George Mitchell Scholarship Fund until such time as the overall limit of €20 million is reached. Payments will be made on the basis of matching funding having been raised by the US-Ireland Alliance.

The amending Act also provides for a new agreement with the USIA in relation to certain matters including the maintenance of an investment account, a matching funding account, annual auditing of accounts and the preparation by the USIA of an annual report on the operation of the Fund, and distribution of monies in the investment and matching funding accounts if the agreement ceases to have effect. The amending Act requires the Minister to lay a copy of the relevant accounts and reports before each House of the Oireachtas as soon as possible after receiving them from the fund manager each year.

The amending Act also provides for the possibility of using excess income accruing to the matching funding account for other educational programs of the US-Ireland Alliance as approved by the USIA's Board of Directors.

At the end of 2019, the value of the (Irish Government) investment account was \$5,597,897 and the value of the (non-IG) matching account was \$3,312,429.

### **New Funding and Management Agreement between the Minister for Education and Skills and the US-Ireland Alliance**

The Act is complemented by, and provides legal underpinning for, a detailed new funding and management agreement between the Minister for Education and Skills and the Alliance. The agreement gives effect to the provisions of the Act and provides for the putting in place of appropriate governance structures.

The new agreement was formally signed on 1<sup>st</sup> June 2010 and replaces an agreement that was made on 8<sup>th</sup> March 1999. A copy of the agreement was laid before the Houses of the Oireachtas in July 2010.

### ***US-Ireland Alliance***

The George Mitchell Scholarship Fund is managed and controlled in the United States by the US-Ireland Alliance (USIA). Based in Washington DC, the Alliance Board is composed of members from both Ireland and the United States. The Alliance carries out its functions in relation to the Fund in accordance with the Agreement entered into with the Minister for Education and Skills and executed on 1 June 2010.

### ***Selection Commitment Appointment***

The Agreement for the Control and Management of the Fund, entered into by the Minister for Education and Skills and the US-Ireland Alliance, sets out the procedures for the appointment of the Selection Committee. In October 2019, the Minister appointed Cóilín

Parsons, Associate Professor of English at Georgetown University, to serve on the selection committee.

### ***Selection Process for the Mitchell Scholarship***

The Mitchell Scholarship is a highly prestigious award that attracts future American leaders for a year of post-graduate study on the island of Ireland. It is most commonly compared with the Rhodes Scholarship, which sends American students to Oxford University; and the Marshall Scholarship, which sends American students to universities in the United Kingdom. The 2019 selection was exceptionally competitive with several Mitchell Finalists receiving invitations to interview for other scholarships, including the Marshall, Rhodes, and Schwartzman Scholars program.

The online application process allows for US-Ireland Alliance staff to electronically share applications with the Readers Committee and the Final Selection Committee members. Readers rank their top 30 applicants, which helps the USIA select the semi-finalists that are then interviewed online.

The application includes a video interview hosted by the Irish company *Sonru*, which is embedded directly into the application for easy viewing. Every applicant responds to four interview questions that are randomized from a list of twelve questions (or more), which are carefully developed by the USIA.

All undergraduate applicants are required to obtain and submit an institutional endorsement from their home university. The institutional endorsement process assists us in controlling the number of applicants from any one school and maintaining quality control of the applications. We do not require institutional endorsements from graduate students or professional candidates.

All materials are processed through the online system, including recommendations and university endorsements. This greatly increases efficiency for applicants, their universities and recommenders, USIA staff, Reader and Final Selection Committee members.

### ***Selection of the Mitchell Class of 2021***

In 2019, the Selection Committee awarded twelve Mitchell Scholarships for academic year 2020-2021, also referred to as the Mitchell Scholar class of 2021.

The online application for the 2020-2021 academic year competition launched on March 17, 2019 and closed on September 27, 2019. The Mitchell Scholarship Program received 357 completed applications, a few less than the 2018 all-time high of 370.

USIA staff read all completed applications and distributed the most impressive 69 applications to the Readers Committee, a group largely consisting of Mitchell Scholars from previous classes. We utilized the rankings to select 39 semi-finalists who were then interviewed via Skype in late October. Eighteen finalists were interviewed in-person in Washington, DC on

Saturday, November 23, 2019 by the Final Selection Committee. Two Mitchell finalists withdrew from the final interview the week before it was scheduled to take place. One finalist accepted the Marshall Scholarship, and the other accepted the Schwartzman scholarship. One Mitchell Finalist declined the Rhodes interview and was ultimately selected as a Mitchell Scholar. Another was offered a Schwartzman Scholarship and declined it in favor of the Mitchell.

Members of the Committee that selected the Mitchell Scholar class of 2021:

1. **Emer Rocke**, Deputy Chief of Mission, Embassy of Ireland;
2. **Justin McCarthy**, Senior Vice President of the Patient & Health Impact group at Pfizer and a member of the Alliance's Advisory Board;
3. **Maureen O'Connor**, Chief Justice, Supreme Court of the state of Ohio;
4. **Marc O Griofa**, President and CEO, Omega Strategic Solutions, LLC;
5. **Dr. C oil n Parsons**, Associate Professor of English, Georgetown University;
6. **Elisabeth Rosenthal**, Editor-in-Chief, Kaiser Health News and author;
7. **Paula Volent**, Chief Investment Officer and Senior VP for Investments, Bowdoin College.

*Newly Selected Scholars for 2020-2021 Academic Year (Mitchell Class of 2021)*

As required by Ireland's Department of Education and Skills, the two universities in Northern Ireland, Queen's University Belfast (QUB) and Ulster University (UU), were included as study options in 2018 after a three-year hiatus. Three members of the Mitchell Class of 2021 will study in Northern Ireland.

<b>Name of Scholar</b>	<b>Course of Study</b>	<b>US Institution</b>	<b>Irish Institution</b>
Kyle Berlin	Culture and Colonialism	Princeton University	NUIG
Rebecca Brett	Gender, Globalisation, Rights	New York University	NUIG
Natalie Campbell	Inclusion and Special Educational Needs	University of Tennessee	QUB
Daniel Driscoll	Early Modern History	Columbia University	TCD
Kalia Firester	Animation	Harvard University	UU, Belfast campus
Mason Gordon	Rural Sustainability	Purdue University	NUIG

Julia Maine	Coastal and Marine Environments	Bowdoin College	NUIG
Alexander Murray	Renewable Energy and Environmental Finance	University of Kansas	UCD
Adler Pruitt	Conflict Resolution and Reconciliation	University of Maryland	TCD, Belfast location
Achille Tenkiang	Race, Migration, and Decolonial Studies	Princeton University	UCD
Joseph Yaconelli	Computer Science	University of Oregon	UCD
Selena Zhao	Conflict Transformation	Harvard University	QUB

### **Activities of the Mitchell Scholars**

Activities in calendar year 2019 included the mid-year retreat in Belfast and commencement weekend for the 2019 Mitchell Scholar class. Activities for the 2020 Mitchell Scholar Class included the summer program orientation held in Arlington, the Dublin welcome event and Dublin Thanksgiving.

### ***2019-2020 Mitchell Scholars (Class of 2020)***

<b>Name of Scholar</b>	<b>Course of Study</b>	<b>US Institution</b>	<b>Irish Institution</b>
Minhal Ahmed	Public Health	Northeastern University	UCC
Kathryn Ammon	Equality Studies	University of Kansas	UCD
Annabel Barry	Philosophy and Literature	Princeton University	UCD
Ella Klahr Bunnell	Conflict and Social Justice	Stanford University	QUB
Keshav Goel	Immunology	Williams College	Maynooth University
Makayla Haussler	Gender Studies	Yale University	UCD
Alison Mahoney	Performance Practice	Northwestern University	UU, Magee campus
Rohan Naik	Public History	Yale University	QUB
Rachel Petherbridge	International Public Policy and Diplomacy	Boston University	UCC
Mitchell Polonsky	Theatre Directing	Harvard University	The Lir, TCD
Kara Schechtman	Philosophy	Columbia University	TCD
Matthew Wigler	International Politics	Stanford University	TCD

### ***Program Orientation and Summer BBQ***

On Saturday, July 20, 2019 Alliance staff welcomed the 2020 Mitchell Scholar class to Arlington, Virginia, to participate in a program orientation that allowed the Scholars to become reacquainted with each other and learn more about the activities planned for their year in Ireland. Later in the very hot afternoon, over 60 alumni and friends of the program gathered for the Mitchell Program's annual summer barbeque at the historic Hendry House in Arlington. Scholars and their families from the inaugural class of 2001 to the class of 2019 joined the new Scholars. Former Mitchell Scholarship Directors and other friends of the program, including former selection committee members, also attended.

### ***Dublin Welcome for the 2019 Mitchell Class***

On September 20, 2019, an audience of 100 guests welcomed the 2020 class of Mitchell Scholars at Dublin's Royal Irish Academy.

Ian McKenna, of the International Cooperation Section of Ireland's Department of Education and Skills, spoke eloquently about Brexit, Northern Ireland and the importance of education in bridging the divide between communities. He talked about "why we celebrate and fight for peace." He encouraged the Scholars to spend time in Northern Ireland if they're not studying there and said that he hoped that they will tell others at home in the United States that "this peace is worth fighting for."

Travelling from New York City to participate was Justin McCarthy, Pfizer's Vice President of Patient and Health Impact. Pfizer marked its 50th year in Ireland, employing 3,700 people today across six sites in Ireland.

McCarthy encouraged the future leaders to consider a career in business. He noticed, as a member of the Mitchell Scholarship selection committee, how few applicants held a passion for business. He reflected that the reasons were "probably multifaceted and likely have some grounding in a concern that business is profit driven." But he added that, "today's corporations are much more than profit centers. Companies like Pfizer (and others attending this event) create jobs, develop talent, invest in communities and engage in philanthropic work." He mentioned the initiative of the Business Roundtable, a powerful business coalition, which recently stated that "today's corporations have a commitment to all stakeholders including investing in employees, dealing fairly with suppliers, supporting communities in which we work, and generating long term value for shareholders." This statement was backed by nearly 200 chief executive officers from some of the world's largest companies, like Tim Cook at Apple, Jamie Dimon at JPMorgan and, Albert Bourla at Pfizer. McCarthy noted that "This is important news for all who combine a passion for business and an understanding that success can connect to a larger social purpose." He said he would love to see more scholars consider the possibility of a career in the private sector.

The 2020 class then spent the next two days together before dispersing to their respective universities. They visited Pfizer's Grange Castle plant, the EPIC Museum, Dublin's new Museum of Literature and attended a performance of *Beckett's Room* at the Gate Theatre.

Mitchell Scholar Nicholas Johnson is dramaturg for the play and met with the class following the performance to discuss the play.

***Mitchell Class of 2019 (Academic year 2018-2019)***

<b>Name of Scholar</b>	<b>Course of Study</b>	<b>Irish Institution</b>
Christopher Dade	Science Communication	DCU
Theodore Delicath	International Security and Conflict	DCU
Celia Hallan	Geography	UCD
Fatoumata Keita	Women’s Studies	TCD
Cameron MacPherson	Theology and Interreligious Studies	TCD
James May	Music Performance	UCC
Schuyler Miller	International Politics	TCD
Anjali Misra	Public Health	UCC
Alexander Peeples	International Justice	NUIM
Hadley Pfalzgraf	Neuroscience	UCC
Shauna Rust	Public Policy	UCD
Jackson Skeen	Criminology and Criminal Justice	UCD

***Class of 2019 Mid-Year Retreat***

The Mitchell Class of 2019 gathered in Northern Ireland in February for a weekend full of activity and exploration. The mid-year “retreat” is an opportunity for the 12 Mitchell Scholars to come together, with the Mitchell Director, to travel and discuss their time on the island to date. Held in Belfast since the establishment of the program in 2001, the weekend kicked off with an historical tour of the city led by Queen’s University Belfast (QUB) professor Dominic Bryan, an expert on historical monuments and long-time friend of the program. The group travelled across Belfast, visiting the well-known peace walls on the west side of the city and the lesser known memorials on the east side. The tour ended with a quick loop around the revitalized dock area, where the Titanic was built and the Titanic Museum now stands, and where ships from as far away as Brazil come to be repaired.

Later that evening, the scholars were treated to an intimate reception hosted by Professor Glenn Patterson, novelist and Director of the Heaney Centre at QUB. The reception was an opportunity to mingle with representatives from QUB and Ulster University, who, after a three-year hiatus, hosted three Mitchell scholars beginning in the fall of 2019.

On Saturday morning, the group departed for the beautiful Antrim coast on the North Atlantic, visiting the amazing basalt columns that make up Giant’s Causeway and the slightly shaky Carrick-a-Rede rope bridge. After a quick lunch at the Fullerton Arms, where the Game of Thrones cast dines during production, the group made a quick stop at the Dark Hedges in

Ballymoney before heading back to Belfast. That evening, they attended a showing of *Sweeney Todd* at The Lyric.

Before heading back to their host universities, the group visited the Titanic Museum and those with later train and bus tickets visited other places in the city, including St. George's Market.

### ***Class of 2019 meeting with Senator Mitchell***

On May 13, 2019, Senator George J. Mitchell gathered with nine members of the Mitchell Class of 2019 in Dublin. Over tea, the 19<sup>th</sup> class of Scholars shared highlights of their year in Ireland, their current academic pursuits, and future plans. The group also discussed Brexit, its potential impact on the Irish economy and on the current peace that exists in Northern Ireland. The Senator spoke broadly of peace processes and the importance of building consensus, even if the end result is imperfect. The gathering took place in the Constitution Room at the Shelbourne Hotel, where the Irish Constitution was drafted in 1922.

### ***Visit to Glenstal Abbey***

On May 17, members of the class of 2019 spent the day hosted by Mark Patrick Hederman at Glenstal Abbey. Mark and six other monks joined the group for tea and scones. The group then walked the grounds, visited the icon chapel, and attended vespers. This annual event is one of the highlights for every Mitchell Class.

### ***Class of 2019 Commencement***

The 2019 class of Mitchell Scholars gathered on May 23, 2019 to conclude their year as the guests of Lord Iveagh at the Elveden Estate about 45 minutes west of Cambridge in England. The scholars were accompanied by Edward Guinness (the 4th Earl of Iveagh), Mitchell alumna Sarah Bufkin (currently a Clarendon Scholar at Oxford), and Alliance president Trina Vargo.

Lord Iveagh and his team gave an interesting and informative tour of the 22,000-acre estate. The estate includes farmland, 1,500 acres of heathland, and 4,000 acres of forest. They sell 10,000 Christmas trees a year and livestock include sheep, cattle, pigs and free-range poultry. Crops grown, largely for the domestic market, include barley, malt, onions, and potatoes.

Accompanying the group throughout the day was plant and soil scientist Philip Draycott. Paul Dickinson gave a talk about conversation, sustainability and the application of science to best practice. The group learned about water storage, irrigation, and observed the onion grading process.

Paul Thomas explained Elveden's "instant hedging" business. The group had lunch at Elveden Inn and then met game keeper Rob Minty to learn about the estate's 1,400 deer, pheasants and other game.

There was a visit to Elveden Church and Elveden Hall, which has a storied past. It began as the home of Maharajah Duleep Singh, the last Maharajah of the Sikh Empire, who was exiled to England in 1849, after being removed from his kingdom by the British East India Company. The estate was later bought by Edward Cecil Guinness who, in 1919, was created Earl of Iveagh and Viscount of Elveden.

During WWI, Elveden was acquired by the War Office and used for secret training for the new Mark 1 tank. Elveden Hall was also used during WWII as the headquarters for General Curtis LeMay's US Air Force's Third Air Division. More recently, it has been used as a film set, including for LARA CROFT: TOMB RAIDER, Stanley Kubrick's EYES WIDE SHUT, Ridley Scott's ALL THE MONEY IN THE WORLD, and the Netflix series, The Crown. The day ended with a visit to the Elveden Courtyard, the estate's lovely shop and restaurant.

### ***Mitchell Scholar Blogs***

Each Mitchell Scholar is required to submit four blog posts per year highlighting different aspects of their experience in Ireland. Blogs may be found at: <http://blog.mitchellscholars.org/wordpress/>.

### ***The Monetary Value of the Scholarships***

All Mitchell Scholars receive a flat monthly stipend of \$1250 for September through May (nine months), and then up to three additional months of summer stipend if the Scholar's program requires them to remain on the island. Each Scholar is also provided a round-trip air ticket between the United States and Ireland and other in-kind benefits such as two tickets to the Abbey and readers' tickets from the Royal Irish Academy. The Scholars also receive student passes from the National Trust (UK) and an OPW card (Republic of Ireland) that allows them to visit Heritage sites free of charge.

### ***Program Budget & Fundraising***

Our on-going issue is to determine if the Mitchell Scholarship Program is viable for the long term. While the Mitchell is a prestigious, highly competitive scholarship for American post-graduates, raising large sums has remained difficult since the 2008 economic crash. Ireland's Department of Education agreed to contribute \$485,000 a year to the program through 2020. That is the same amount the US Government contributed for annual costs more than a decade. We are grateful that the Department continues to provide annual support. We continue to seek other sources of funding and currently receive support from Morgan Stanley and Pfizer. The annual budget of the Mitchell Scholarship Program is valued at around \$1 million when the substantial amount of in-kind contributions are included.

The program costs include the administration of a nationwide competition in the United States, which includes the expense of the annual selection committee interview process in Washington, DC, the online application and all associated technology and website costs.

US program activities include a program orientation and the events related to the final selection of each scholar class in November. Activities in Ireland include a September reception and group activities, a Thanksgiving gathering, commencement weekend and an annual mid-year visit by the Mitchell Scholarship Director to Ireland and Northern Ireland to assess the current Scholars' progress, visit the host universities in Ireland, and lead the visit to Northern Ireland with the Mitchell Scholars.

Other costs of the program include alumni events, as well as administrative expenses such as office, equipment, insurances, legal services, supplies, and salaries and benefits of the USIA staff. Each year, there is an increase in the number of alumni that the program serves. A strong alumni program is crucial for maintaining the long-term connection of the Mitchells to Ireland.

Next to our own funding concerns, our biggest concern is the decline of Irish universities in global rankings. If we are to continue to attract the very best of future American leaders, it is crucial that the Irish universities be internationally competitive and provide a challenging and high-quality educational programming.

### ***Recruiting & Diversity***

Recruitment for the new competition occurs in the early spring, once the application for the new cycle is announced (usually on or around St. Patrick's Day) and before students depart their US campuses for summer break.

Due to limited staffing and budget, in-person visits to US institutions are limited unless they are combined with other travel. Alumni occasionally participate in roundtables at their undergraduate or graduate alma maters when possible and provide advice to applicants.

The bulk of the outreach work is done via phone and online, speaking to advisors (many of whom are new to their position or institution) who want to learn more about the scholarship or who have specific questions about a candidate. In 2019, the Mitchell Director spoke to a handful of advisors and held three GoToMeeting information sessions that attracted nearly 30 attendants.

In 2019, the applicant pool for the scholarship represented 201 U.S. Congressional districts (out of 435) along with 160 colleges and universities. Three members of the 2021 Mitchell Class are the first Mitchell recipients from their undergraduate institutions. The new institutions are Bowdoin College, the University of Tennessee, and the University of Oregon.

### ***2019 National Association of Fellowship Advisors (NAFA) Biannual Conference***

The 2019 NAFA conference was held July 23-26, 2019 in Minneapolis, Minnesota. The conference brings together fellowship advisors from universities across the United States and representatives from educational exchange organizations and foundations. Most of the conference is devoted to advisor-specific issues of how to advise their students. Foundation representatives are included in sessions that allow them to discuss their specific program(s).

Mitchell Scholarship Director Carolina Chavez attended the conference and led a series of roundtables with fellowship advisors and participated in a foundation panel that included representatives from the Rhodes Trust, the Knight-Hennessy program, and the Schwartzman Scholars program. The conference is always a valuable opportunity to meet with advisors, especially with those from institutions that have not yet nominated a Mitchell Scholar, and with fellow foundation staff to share best practices.

### ***USIA Website and Mitchell Scholarship Application***

The Alliance continues to work with a California-based web design company, *Midwest Design Lab*, owned by a former Mitchell Scholar, to update the look of the US-Ireland Alliance website and include functions that allow staff to quickly add updates. In early 2019, the Alliance learned that Innate, the company that has hosted and serviced the Mitchell Scholarship application for nearly ten years, would no longer be able to service the Mitchell application after the 2021 cycle. The search for a new application host began. We researched several existing application service providers (including those used by the Marshall and Fulbright programs) and compared them against the functionality and cost of developing a new application with a web design firm. After interviewing several companies, and getting the advice of Innate and our long-time technology providers at Technolutionary, we determined that no existing application service provider would be able to replicate all of the current application functions the Mitchell application requires and the cost for using an existing application provider was nearly equal to developing a custom application with *Midwest Design Lab*. *Midwest Design Lab* is currently working on the new application for the next Mitchell Scholarship competition.

### ***Strengthening Partnerships with Irish Universities***

Each year, after we conclude our selection process, we send a list of applicants who authorized the Alliance to share their names and information with universities on the island. This information allows the universities to reach out to these students for recruitment purposes. This information appears to be put to use most often by UCD and Queen's University Belfast. We also provide the cvs of applicants with Pfizer and Morgan Stanley. Given that an applicant has a less than 5% chance of winning the Mitchell, we want to provide them with other opportunities.

### ***Alumni Outreach and Support***

The Alliance continues to support Mitchell Scholars from all classes as they seek future opportunities. We are always pleased to promote Scholars' accomplishments, help publicize their work, and support them as they seek addition degrees or funding. Most of this news is distributed via mass emails, Twitter and Facebook. We also regularly update their bios on our website.

Alumni events in 2019 included:

- On April 25, Mitchell Scholars, friends of the US-Ireland Alliance, and members of the Alliance's Cultúr Club gathered at the Cauldron, a new pub on Stone Street in Manhattan,

owned by Mitchell Scholar Matt Cortland. Matt also has a successful Cauldron in London (<https://thecauldron.io>) as well as pop-up in Dublin. The Cauldron uses science and technology to bring the magic from fantasy books to life in an immersive, interactive experience. Matt spoke about how he came up with the idea for the Cauldron during his time as a Mitchell Scholar at the Dublin Institute of Technology in 2015. Another Mitchell Scholar, Bobby Mulcare, hosted the event.

- In May, Trina gathered with Mitchells, and their friends and family, in the Boston area. The group was represented by a scholar from the first class (2001) Tommy Vitolo, now an elected Representative in the State House in Massachusetts, as well as three 2020 Mitchell Scholars, and other program alumni who are working and/or completing their graduate work in the Boston-area.
  - In September, Trina met with the growing number of alumni in the Philadelphia-area.

### ***London Reception***

Each year, the Alliance holds events, with various partners, that include Mitchell alumni. On September 12, 2019 US-Ireland Alliance and Morgan Stanley teamed up for their annual London reception. Thanks to Ronan Harris, Google's Vice President & MD of the UK & Ireland, the event was held at Google's Pancras Square office. It was Belfast-born Googler Tony McGaharan's idea to hold the reception there.

Trina Vargo welcomed guests alongside and Caroline McLaughlin, co-Chair of Net-Éire, Morgan Stanley's Irish network. Mitchell Scholars Winnie Li and Tyler Dillard were among the guests on hand.

### ***The Oscar Wilde Awards***

The Alliance also involves several Mitchell Scholars in the annual Oscar Wilde Awards in Los Angeles. Those who are in the film/entertainment space are invited. This provides guests to meet Mitchell Scholars and to learn about the program.

## Appendix 1

### Annual Written Declaration by Fund Manager in respect of the George Mitchell Scholarship Fund

I, the undersigned, in accordance with the George Mitchell Scholarship Acts 1998 and 2010 and paragraphs 6(4) and 7(2) of the Agreement dated 1<sup>st</sup> June 2010 between the US-Ireland Alliance and the Department of Education and Skills (Ireland), hereby declare on behalf of the US-Ireland Alliance that

- a) in accordance with paragraph 6 (4) of the Agreement, the Alliance has ensured that all payments from the investment and matching funding accounts in (insert the relevant year) have been used for the purposes of the Fund as specified under paragraphs 1(2) and 1(3) of the Agreement and are not being used to cross-subsidise any of the Alliance's other activities and
- b) in accordance with paragraph 7 (2) of the Agreement, the Alliance has ensured that in 2013 the monies withdrawn from the Fund for the purposes specified in paragraph 1(2) of the Agreement have been drawn in equal amounts from the investment account and the matching funding account.

Signed



Title President

Date April 26, 2020