

# 2018 GOLDEN BRIDGES SPEAKERS



## June Matte

Managing Director, PFM Financial Advisors LLC  
June currently oversees the firm's strategic development of international opportunities and is currently located in London. She has served as a member of the firm's Executive Committee. With almost 40 years of public finance experience, she has managed PFM's industry leading higher education practice and specialized in governmental purpose projects, including appropriation-backed financings from the firm's Boston office.

She has served as engagement manager for PFM's projects with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, the States of Maine and Wisconsin, as well as state-level issuers in Virginia, Maryland, Vermont and Rhode Island. In Massachusetts, she has assisted the Treasurer's Office, Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority, Massachusetts Port Authority, Massachusetts Water Resources Authority and the City of Boston. Her experience includes new issuance, debt restructuring, refundings, and managing outstanding bond portfolios and liquidity.

In higher education, June has served as financial advisor to numerous higher education institutions across the country, where she provides advice in the areas of strategic planning, governance, credit strategy development, risk assessment and management, financing alternatives, and cash-flow optimization, in addition to traditional transaction management services. She services a broad range of clients including both large public and private research institutions, as well as smaller tuition dependent institutions. Her clients include the University System of Maryland, the University of Arkansas, the University of Illinois,

Georgetown University, the Pennsylvania State University, the University of Massachusetts System and the University of Oregon. She has also assisted her higher-education clients with Public Private Partnerships.



## Kevin O'Connor

Kevin O'Connor is Head of Business at Derry City and Strabane District Council. Established in April 2015 as a result of a programme of local government reform in Northern Ireland, the Council area comprises the vibrant and youthful City of Derry/Londonderry, the busy market town of Strabane and a diverse and attractive rural area of designated outstanding natural beauty.

Derry is the second largest city in Northern Ireland/fourth largest city on the island of Ireland and is the principal sub-regional economic driver of a cross border City region of over 350,000 people.

Kevin is a member of the Senior Leadership Team of Derry City and Strabane District Council and is responsible for leading Council's Business team. Kevin is responsible for City & Regional Economic Development, Entrepreneurship and Business Development, Rural Development, PEACE IV Programme, Rural Development and Digital Services.

The Council is leading and delivering on this vision with its many civic, statutory, community and business partners through its Strategic Growth Plan 2017-2032 driving economic, environmental and social well-being and regeneration and by addressing and targeting poverty, social exclusion and disadvantage.

As Head of Business, Kevin leads a talented and dedicated business team with an

outcomes-driven focus on successfully implementing the key economic objectives of the strategic growth plan.

Kevin is a recent Alumni of the US State Department International Visitor and Leadership Programme with a specific focus on Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development.



## Laura Hamilton

Laura Hamilton MSc, MBA Originally from Cork City, Ireland and now residing in Boston, Laura is the Executive Vice President, US Operations at RxCelebrate, an outsourced drug development company.

In her role, Laura is responsible for leading all aspects of the company's expansion into the US, as well as overseeing global Sales, Marketing and Business Development. Prior to this role, Laura was the Director of Business Development at MassBio (Massachusetts Biotechnology Council), onboarding over 650 new companies in 4 years. Additionally, Laura is the President of the Boston Irish Business Association (BIBA).

In 2018, Laura received the Irish Echo 40 Under 40 Award, as well as their Business Innovator Award. In support of early-stage innovation, Laura is a Mentor and Judge at MassChallenge within their Bridge to MassChallenge program, advising foreign companies on aspects of market entry and market intelligence as well as Sales, Marketing and Business Development strategy. Laura has been a BIBA Board Member for several years and was awarded the Boston Irish Business Young Leader Award in 2015. Prior to her work in the BioPharma industry, Laura worked for a Financial Services company, First Marblehead Corporation in Boston.

Laura is a proud member of the Irish Network Boston Board of Directors and is

affiliated with many worthwhile organizations: Quincy Chamber of Commerce Young Professionals, the Edward M. Kennedy Institute for the United States Senate – 1787 Society, and the American Heart Association. Laura is a three-time graduate of Northeastern University, holding a BSBA in Finance, a Master's Degree in Innovation and a Master's Degree in Business Administration (MBA). Laura is passionate about business, disruptive technology, economic development, international trade and investment, and innovation.

She takes great pride in facilitating introductions and making connections across her vast, global business network



## Professor Mark Durkin

Professor Mark Durkin is Executive Dean of the Ulster University Business School (UUBS).

Prior to joining Ulster Dr Durkin spent over a decade in various service, sales and strategic marketing roles within the Bank of Ireland Group. His teaching and research focus is at the marketing / technology interface in various business contexts and he is currently examining competency sets for marketing managers as levels of digitisation increase.

He completed his PhD in 2005 (Loughborough University, UK) and was awarded the UK Chartered Institute of Marketing's 'Marketing Person of the Year' in 2006 in recognition of his contribution to marketing education in Ireland.

Mark has held senior positions at Ulster in both academic leadership and professional services leadership contexts. Under his leadership as Executive Dean Ulster University Business School is now the only UK business school with formal

relationships with both Harvard Business School and Babson College, Boston, USA. He is committed to embedding entrepreneurial leadership within the business curriculum. Mark is a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Marketing, a Fellow of the Institute of Banking and is a Senior Fellow of the UK's Higher Education Academy.

He has published over 60 peer reviewed academic papers and is an invited scholar to Babson College in Boston and a visiting professor to Philadelphia University. He is also part of the 'World Famous Scientist and Scholars Visit Hubei Programme' in China



## Dr. Mark White

Director, Enterprise, Employment and Property, Údarás na Gaeltachta

In May 2018, Mark was appointed to the role of Director of Enterprise, Employment and Property at Údarás na Gaeltachta. Údarás is the Irish State Agency responsible for supporting and developing those parts of Ireland where the Irish Language is the spoken language of the community. Údarás is the Enterprise Development Agency for these areas, and has responsibility for economic, social and cultural development there. Mark heads up the Enterprise function of the Agency.

Mark's background is entrepreneurial: he co-founded (in 1999) and was CEO of a weather forecasting business Nowcasting Weather, which was sold to Meteogroup, Europe's largest private weather company with operations in 17 countries around the globe. He has worked in the commercial weather services business for 17 years, and after the acquisition by Meteogroup became responsible for all Meteogroup's services to the Global Shipping, Ship Routing