

Team Youghal are guest of the Irish Consulate General in New York

Team Youghal were guests of the Consulate General of Ireland at the Emer Casey Foundation reception held at 345 Park Avenue on Tuesday June 28th. The event was hosted by the Vice-Consulate General Jackie O'Halloran and the MC for the evening was ESPN Commentator Tommy Smyth.

The attendees included Emer's parents Juliette and Brendan, Professor John O'Leary and Dr. Sharon O'Toole of the Discovery Consortium, representatives of Firedog and Magners, two of Team Youghal Sponsors plus guests from many walks of life both locally and internationally.

The Vice-Consulate General Jackie O'Halloran praised Team Youghal on their wonderful achievement in crossing the American continent in a little over 7 days. She praised the work of the Emer Casey Foundation and said that she was honoured to host the event.

Ray Flanagan, a member of team Youghal crew, produced a short video montage on the Race Across America from the departure in Youghal to the Start in Oceanside, California and right through to the finish line in Annapolis, Maryland. It included some breath-taking shots through the wonderful scenery of the United States of America.

Juliette Casey spoke of the heartbreak of losing her daughter a few days after her 28. She spoke of the setting up of the foundation and how far it has come in the past four years. To date over €500,000 has been raised for Ovarian/Uterine cancer research. She paid tribute to Matheson Ormsby Prentice Solicitors, whom Emer worked with prior to her death for their excellent support both moral and financial over the past while. She thanked Team Youghal for adopting the Emer Casey Foundation as their chosen charity for the Race Across America. She thanked Jackie and everyone at the Irish Consulate for their help in organising the event.

Professor John O'Leary spoke on behalf of the Discovery Consortium and outlined the work involved with the research carried out on behalf of the Emer Casey Foundation. He said that they have made enormous strides in early detection, testing and in chemoresistances. He thanked everyone present for their support of the work of the Emer Casey Foundation. He recalled a meeting in a Dublin Hotel some 18 months previously with Ger Flanagan of Team Youghal when the idea of racing across America was first mentioned and he was very sceptical. He is delighted to say the scepticism was unfounded and here we are tonight celebrating Team Youghal's Race Across America adventure. He thanked the team for their promotion of the Emer Casey Foundation and for putting so much personal time, effort and finance into a truly magnificent cause.

Ger Flanagan spoke on behalf of Team Youghal and thanked everyone of the team members for fulfilling what was initially his dream but expressed the view that it had become their dream now of competing in RAAM. He thanked all the sponsors including Firedog, Magners Irish Cider, Excelsys, Matheson Ormsby Prentice and Race Around Ireland. He also thanked everyone who made a financial contribution to the team as well as the website advertisers. He confirmed that the website had

received over 62,500 hits during the race. He thanked everyone for making the effort to support them and to the Irish Consulate General for hosting the event. He also thanked MC Tommy Smyth.

The evening was rounded off in style with a rendition of tunes from Youghal Pipe Band member Christy McCarthy. Christy, a cyclist with Team Youghal, also played the National Anthem at the start of the Race in Oceanside California.