

IrishEcho

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17th Annual

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40

A celebration of Irish and Irish Americans who have distinguished themselves in their respective fields of work before reaching the age of forty.

Friday, February 23, 2024

The View at The Battery, Manhattan, NY

Guest Speaker: Michael Biondo

President of Business Development & Strategic Partnerships, iHeartMedia

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40 Under 40 Marks Seventeen

By Ray O'Hanlon

The 40 Under 40 awards event is set for The View at the Battery for what will be the 17th gathering and celebration of excellence for award winners yet to reach that landmark age.

This year's awards being the seventeenth annual, the grand total of award winners over the past decade plus seven years equals 680.

That total number of award winners to date makes for a lot of living, work, accomplishment, ambition, hope, and dreams. The awards celebrate all of these and more. And they are, we hope, as much a spur for the future as they are a recognition of each winner's present and past.

Our award winners have already blazed trails through their lives that bring credit to themselves, their families, their communities, Ireland, Irish America, and the United States of America.

The awards are not given on the basis of specific jobs, vocations or achievements, but rather cover all possible career bases and pursuits and are prompted by nominators who see in each award winner a reason, or reasons, as to why he or she stands out at a time of life when the aforementioned landmark age has yet to be reached.

The varied careers, and the different places our award winners call home, is now a familiar aspect of 40 Under 40. The awards are national and international, personal and shared. And we believe they wear the passing years well. And the Irish Echo is proud

to play host in what is our 96th year of publication.

This year's keynote speaker at the awards gathering will be Michael Biondo, president of business development and strategic partnerships iHeartMedia, a company known to many for, among other things, its array of radio stations.

When he was appointed to this position in 2022 Biondo reported to Conal Byrne, CEO of the iHeartMedia Digital Group.

"Mike has had a long, varied career at iHeartMedia, and has gained experience and wisdom across a diverse set of priorities, vendors and partners," said Byrne at the time.

"With Mike in this new role, our company will be even better prepared to approach the market in a thoughtful, streamlined, strategic manner every day, and in every conversation."

Biondo, with over 25 years of experience building operational and development teams, clearly fits that bill.

At iHeartMedia, according to his company profile, "Biondo has been instrumental in building international partnerships, leading expansions in Canada, Mexico, Australia, New Zealand, Italy and France. He also brokered iHeartMedia's early podcast deals, including the first BetCast with the English Premier League and a partnership with the NBA, to name a few.

"Biondo's previous stints include ESPN, AT&T and, most notably, Thumbplay, where he served as VP of Customer Operations when the com-



Michael Biondo readies for the 40 Under 40 Awards. Photo by Nuala Purcell.

pany was acquired by iHeartMedia in 2011. Biondo has gone on to run a number of varied divisions at iHeartRadio and most recently served as EVP, Strategic Business Operations within iHeart's Venture and Corp Dev team.

iHeartMedia, the company itself proclaims, is the number one audio company in the United States, reaching nine out of 10 Americans every month. It consists of three business groups.

"With its quarter of a billion monthly listeners, the iHeartMedia Multiplatform Group has a greater reach than any other media company in the U.S. Its leadership position in audio extends across multiple platforms, including more than 860 live

broadcast stations in over 160 markets nationwide; its National Sales organization; and the company's live and virtual events business. It also includes Premiere Networks, the industry's largest Networks business, with its Total Traffic and Weather Network (TTWN); and BIN: Black Information Network, the first and only 24/7 national and local all news audio service for the Black community. iHeartMedia also leads the audio industry in analytics, targeting and attribution for its marketing partners with its SmartAudio suite of data targeting and attribution products using data from its massive consumer base.

"The iHeartMedia Digital Audio Group includes the company's fast-growing podcasting business - iHeartMedia is the number one podcast publisher in downloads, unique listeners, revenue and earnings -- as well as its industry-leading iHeartRadio digital service, available across more than 250 platforms and 2,000 devices; the company's digital sites, newsletters, digital services and programs; its digital advertising technology companies; and its audio industry-leading social media footprint."

Michael Biondo is an impressive figure in an impressive organization. But at 40 Under 40 he will be a guy from the Bronx with a proud Irish and Italian family lineage, "Gaelic and Garlic" as he puts it himself. Chances are he won't be the only person in the room who can claim this great and grand distinction.

Congratulations

Seamus Balfe

On a well-deserved honor

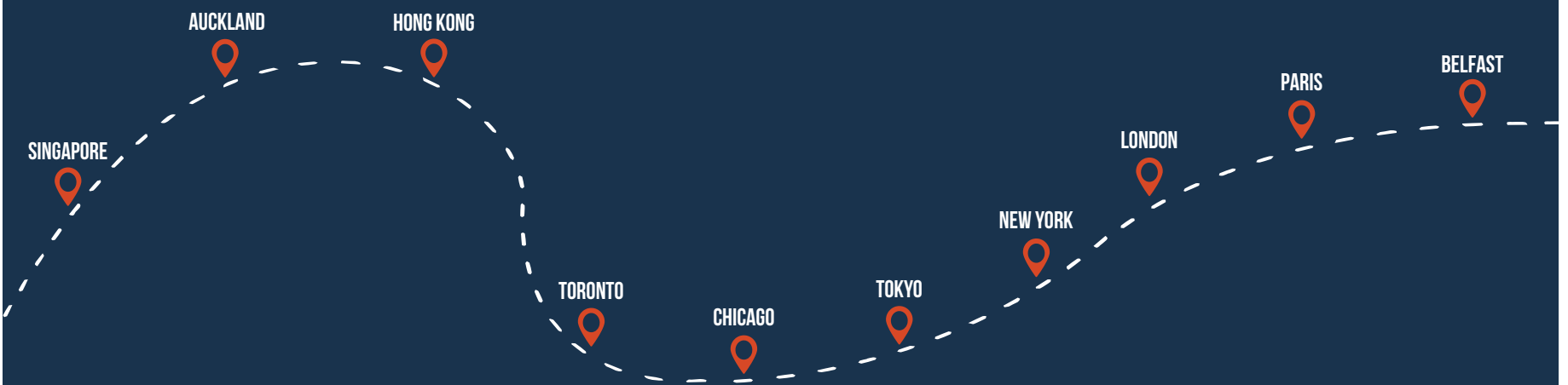
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Kaitlyn Likas

Place of birth: Wilmington, North Carolina.

Where do you live? Alexandria, Virginia.

Current company and position? Manager of Science & Technology Division at Institute for Defense Analyses; Fiddler, Irish dancer, Scottish dancer, Lithuanian dancer, Painter.

First job and what it taught me? My first job out of college was in customer service. It taught me resilience, and how to effectively interact with others. I had to assist people from various countries and walks-of-life. Each customer had different concerns that needed to be addressed and varying ways of expressing their concerns. I could not take anything personally. This job prepared me for my future. I grew a thick skin. I learned many invaluable lessons that translated into my current field of work.

How do you embrace your Irish heritage? From an early age, Kaitlyn's mother Peggie ingrained in Kaitlyn and her siblings an awareness and appreciation of their cultural heritage. Peggie Casey-Likas was born in Mitchelstown, County Cork. As a first-generation Irish American, Kaitlyn makes a point to be active in her local Irish community in Virginia, D.C., and Maryland. Peggie Likas had her children performing throughout the D.C. area. Kaitlyn and her sister Jessica danced both Irish and Scottish Dance, and her brother Leonard played the bagpipes. Kaitlyn has fond memories of proudly carrying the Irish flag in St. Patrick's Day parades as well as the Scottish Walk in Alexandria, Virginia.

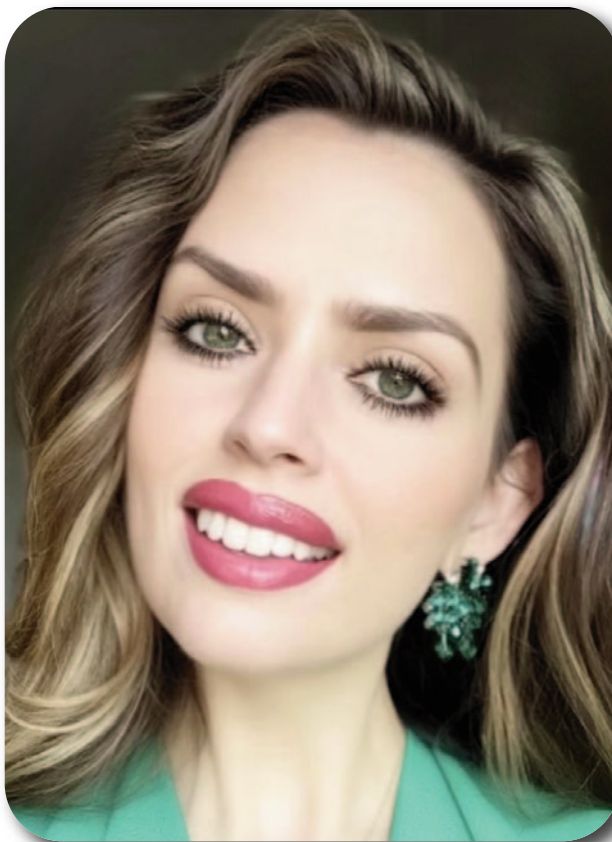
Kaitlyn began her dancing career at the age of 4, learning Scottish Highland dance because Irish was sadly not available in Southern Maryland where she grew up. She later was taught Irish dance in high school from both the Hunt and Broesler schools in Annapolis and Baltimore, winning various competitions and regional championships throughout her competitive dancing career. Kaitlyn was presented with the "Best Maryland Dancer" award at the age of 14.

Kaitlyn celebrates and promotes her Irish heritage every day of the year, not just on St. Patrick's Day. It truly is a part of her being, and she considers herself very fortunate to be a first-generation Irish American living in the Nation's Capital pursuing the American dream. Kaitlyn understands the struggles and sacrifices made by her grandparents and honors their memory every day. She will forever cherish her Irish heritage and ties to County Cork.

Something people would be surprised to know about me: I am half Irish and half Lithuanian. I will be traveling to Lithuania July 2024 to dance in an international dance

and music festival in Vilnius with the Mituva Lithuanian Dance Ensemble. I am training to be a Sean-nós dancer. My goal is to compete in the 2024 Mid-Atlantic Fleadh. I am also a Bollywood dancer. I performed a traditional Bollywood dance for (my alma mater) Towson University's South Asian Student Association Spring Masti.

Kaitlyn Likas is an award-winning fiddler and Irish/Scottish Highland dancer based in the Washington, D.C. area. In high school, Kaitlyn and



her sister Jessica created the Irish sister music and dance group, "The Wild Irish Roses." Kaitlyn and her sister won "First Place Performing Arts" in the 2017 Alexandria St. Patrick's Day parade. The Likas sisters also founded a Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians division in Southern Maryland. Their LAOH chapter has donated thousands of dollars to local charities in Southern Maryland and surrounding areas. Kaitlyn and her sister represented Southern Maryland in the Ancient Order of Hibernians National Convention in Boston in the early 2000's.

Kaitlyn is the only female fiddler to perform in the Baltimore-based Irish punk band, The Charm City Saints. The Charm City Saints contributed music to various Irish films and documentaries. Kaitlyn has also recently performed with Black 47, O'Malley's March, Celtica, The Fighting Jameson's, Capital Celtic, The Devil's Tailors, The Thistle & The Rose, Baltic Celtic, and The Gobshites. Since starting "The Wild Irish Roses," Kaitlyn has performed at several Irish/Celtic festivals on the east coast, including ShamrockFest.

She has graced the stages of The Kennedy Center One of the highlights of Kaitlyn's career was performing before Irish Ambassador to the U.S. Anne Anderson. Kaitlyn has also served as a member of the Culture Caucus at the Kennedy Center, representing Ireland. Recently, Kaitlyn performed for Taoiseach Leo Varadkar at an Ancient Order of Hibernians reception in Washington, D.C. She has also performed for former taoiseach Bertie Ahern in Ohio, for AOH National Danny O'Connell's Testimonial. In 2021, she was invited to perform for Vice President Kamala Harris for a St. Patrick's Day breakfast at the Vice President's residence. Kaitlyn represented Washington, D.C. in the 2022 Mary from Dungloe International Arts Festival in Donegal. She toured with Irish music superstar Daniel O'Donnell. In her spare time, Kaitlyn volunteers for various local Irish/Celtic organizations. She has served as Chairman, Secretary, and Public Relations Coordinator for The Ballyshaners a charitable Irish organization in Alexandria, Virginia. Kaitlyn fundraised thousands of dollars for the Ballyshaners.

She also helped raise money with the Alexandria Ancient Order of Hibernians for their annual Irish Hooley. In 2021, Kaitlyn created an Irish traditional music fundraiser for Ukraine. The group of traditional musicians presented United Help Ukraine with a substantial check to aid those affected by the war. Kaitlyn currently serves as the Vice President of the Celtic Society of Southern Maryland. In her role as Vice President, Kaitlyn organizes the Celtic Festival of Southern Maryland as well as other Celtic events in the area. She is also President of the St. Andrew's Society of Mid-Maryland. She recently was appointed the Director of Irish Arts for Irish Network D.C.

When she gets a moment, she plays Camogie with the Washington, D.C. Gaels and volunteers for the Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann O'Neill Malcom Branch. Kaitlyn dreams of opening a Celtic arts school. She currently works as the Manager of the Science & Technology Division at Institute for Defense Analyses. This March, Kaitlyn is hosting a special celebration to honor Irish-American women at the Institute for Defense Analyses...the first of its kind!

Aidan McCormack

Place of birth: Waterbury, Connecticut.

Where do you live? New Haven, CT.

Current company and position? I currently work full time for a State Farm Insurance Office in North Haven, CT as an Office Manager.

First job and what it taught me? My first job was at Highland Greens Golf Course Club in Prospect, CT. I started as a Groundskeeper and ended my time there as the Club House Manager. The experience taught me the importance of customer service and meeting the needs of all types of clientele. As my role at Highland Greens changed, I gained valuable management experience that helps me in my current career path today.

How do you embrace your Irish heritage? I embrace my Irish heritage every day. I am the Vice Chairman of the New Haven Gaelic Football Club. I also manage and play for the New Haven Gaelic Football Adult team. Marketing, recruiting, fundraising, and event planning are just a few of the ways I stay involved with my Club and try to expand its membership.

I started playing Gaelic football when I was 6 years old and have played in New York, Boston, Chicago, San Francisco, and Ireland. I hope to continue to travel and play in more places in the future.

Something people would be surprised to know about me: One thing that I love to share that surprises people



is that my 2012 New York Feile Gaelic Football All Star team that traveled to Ireland and won the John West

Féile Peile na nÓg. It was an honor to be a part of that team.

Aidan has been a part of the New Haven Gaelic Football club since he was old enough to play. Aidan is one of 6 siblings in a proud Irish American family. He cheers on his Grandad's county Kilkenny proudly. Aidan played for the NY Féile team when he was 14 and championed the team as full forward. He continued to share the game with his high school friends and beyond. Aidan and his family would bring anyone they could down to New York to play and would travel extensively for CYC and other tournaments.

Aidan attended Salve Regina University in Newport, RI where he received a degree with a Major in Marketing and Minor in Sports Management. After college, Aidan, for the past 3 years, has helped re-grow the New Haven Gaelic Football Adult team. He has honored members of the club who have contributed to his youth Gaelic days by fundraising and building a new team from the ground up. The team has become a space for new and old players alike to play the national sport of Ireland! Aidan currently is an Office Manager for a State Farm insurance office in North Haven, CT.

He is about to marry his beautiful soon-to-be wife and number 1 supporter in February! He can't wait to continue growing his career, his family, and the Irish culture in New Haven and beyond!



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Pasadena, CA



Norman McEvoy
Bay City, MI



Patrick Murphy
Bronx, NY



Nolan Maloney
Johnson City, NY

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Vivian Boyd

Place of birth: San Luis Obispo, CA.

Where do you live? Sleepy Hollow, NY.

Current company and position? Con Edison - Operating Supervisor.

First job and what it taught me? My first job was working at a country club back where I grew up in Pennsylvania. I started at 15 years old helping out with the club's children's activities group. Over the five years I worked there, I took on many roles at the club, including working at/running the pool, running summer camp, working in the restaurant, and working on the golf course. This job taught me how to work well with people, respect, and how to think on my feet while staying calm.

How do you embrace your Irish heritage? The main way I embrace my Irish heritage is through Con Edison's Emerald Society. I am currently the Membership Director for the group,

looking to bring in new members and making them feel welcome. I also plan events with the organization to help teach Irish culture and history to our colleagues in the company. In 2017, I took part in my high school's Limerick to Limerick program, where students from my high school, Spring-Ford Senior High School, in Limerick, Pennsylvania participated in a two-week exchange with our sister school in Limerick, Ireland Coláiste Chiaráin.

Something people would be surprised to know about me: I compete in dragon boat racing with many of my colleagues on our team, the Electric Dragons. I stepped out of my comfort zone joining the team two years ago, having never done anything like it before, and I have loved it ever since.

Vivian Boyd is an Operating Supervisor for Con Edison. She joined the company as an intern during her senior year of college. She

studied Business Administration with a concentration in Marketing at Mercy College (now Mercy University). Upon graduating, Vivian joined the Leadership Development Program at Con Edison, an 18-month rotational program that challenged her to work in three very different areas of the company, strengthening her supervisory, presentation, and leadership skills.

After the completion of the program, Vivian took her current role as an Operating Supervisor in the company's Technical Services Laboratory, overseeing the calibration, repairs, and testing of essential equipment to keep the company running smoothly. Vivian is also an active member of Con Edison's Emerald Society, where she sits on the board as Membership Director. In her free time, Vivian enjoys playing sports, such as volleyball and dragon boat racing, baking, and traveling with her family and friends.



Kristen Martino

Place of birth: Long Island, NY.

Where do you live? Ronkonkoma, NY.

Current company and position? Auto Life Property Health Agency Inc - Owner, Principal Insurance Agent.

First job and what it taught me? I was a waitress at a local diner. It was a high-pressure atmosphere and I established much of my work ethic there. I was a fairly shy teen and the thought of speaking to strangers was daunting, but I developed strong communication skills, learned the importance of teamwork, handling of pressure, attention to detail and taking pro-active steps before asked. Things that have served me well through my adulthood.

How do you embrace your Irish heritage? My maternal nana was first Ladies AOH president in Div 5. My paternal grandmother always told stories of her parents coming to America with no money, and the hard living/working conditions she grew up with in Brooklyn. My aunt was in Tara pipe band (Div 5) for 20 years, so we spent every year at parades and growing up celebrating our Irish heritage. To this day, we share Irish music in our home. My children love watching the stepdances and singing along to the fold songs they know. Both myself and my husband are members of Division 7 and my son is in the Junior boys.



Something people would be surprised to know about me: As someone that has no issues speaking in front of rooms filled with hundreds of people and very few other fears in life, I have a debilitating fear of heights. No escalators for me!!

Kristen (Doherty) Martino is an Irish American who has distinguished herself in her respective field of work before reaching the age of forty. Kristen's Irish heritage is something she often reflects on and carries pride in having Irish roots, just as her maternal

grandmother, Patricia Coleman, did. Kristen's grandmother, was the founding President of Division 15, Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians, in Massapequa, NY. In addition to her grandmother, Kristen's family, on both sides, has Irish roots from Tipperary and Dublin, in Ireland. Kristen is also a mother to two active boys and a wife to a very patient and loving man. As a teenager, she always dreamed of one day owning her own insurance agency and in 2016, this dream became a reality.

Kristen received her Bachelors in accounting from SUNY Old Westbury while working for many insurance companies. Kristen worked in the insurance industry, beginning at age 18, for about 14 years. Through those years, she had many highlights that make her stand out. Here are just a couple: (1) While working at Geico, she was selected as a top sales person and was promoted to a sales supervisor rather quickly. (2) When working in a Special Investigative Unit, Kristen was recognized as the top fraud detecting claim adjuster of her branch. She even participated in the investigation of a fraud ring that was brought down by the FBI.

Seven years ago, in 2016, Kristen's dream emerged as she opened her own Insurance company, ALPHA (Auto, Life, Property, Health Agency). ALPHA aims to protect people's most valuable assets - personally and professionally - their

homes, cars, businesses, boats, tools and more, across multiple states. Kristen Martino is the proud President of ALPHA. In addition to working to keep her business a success, Kristen is a founding charter member of her local LeTip Networking Chapter. She has served on the board as Secretary for the past 4 years and has spoken at industry conferences about being a female agency owner in a predominantly male dominated industry.

Kristen has worked diligently in being a mentor to other insurance agents, encouraging and coaching others to find and use their confidence. Through these mentorships, she has found that women tend to lose a sense of identity and individuality so she initiated a local Mom's Night Out group within her local neighborhood where she organizes a quarterly event just for moms to get to know other moms and enjoy themselves in an adult setting without the pressure of kids or having to plan or host in their own home.

When Kristen is not working or on the soccer field with her boys, she spends time traveling, camping, attending concerts or traveling in order to see a concert. Kristen is also an active member of Division 7, Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians, in East Islip, NY. As an active member of the LAOH, Kristen lives their motto of Friendship, Unity and Christian charity.



Tom Moran

Place of birth: Cleveland, Ohio.

Where do you live? Cleveland, Ohio.

Current company and position? Baker & Hostetler, LLP; Associate Attorney in the Digital Risk and Cybersecurity practice group.

First job and what it taught me? I worked as a laborer pouring and tearing out concrete during summers throughout high school and college. It taught me the value of hard work and how to be resilient to and receptive of criticism, even when you feel like you might not deserve it.

How do you embrace your Irish heritage? I embrace my Irish heritage by

trying to incorporate the values of my family into everyday life. In particular, I try not to take for granted the sacrifices that my great-grandparents had to make when they immigrated here. Through hard work, practicing my faith, and recognizing the value of friends, family, and community, I believe I'm fulfilling the legacy of my family.

As Irish-Americans, it's important for us to remember those whose shoulders we're standing on - and it's only because of the work ethic and dedication to family of my great-grandparents, grandparents, and parents that I was fortunate enough to be put in a position to succeed.

Tom Moran is a third-generation Irish-American who lives in Cleveland, Ohio with his wife, Erica, and daughter, Kennedy. In his spare time, he volunteers as a CYO basketball coach and likes spending time outside with his family and dog, Hammy.

As an attorney, Tom provides counsel to clients during data privacy and cybersecurity incidents ranging from phishing incidents to large, high profile data security incidents. Following a data security incident, he advises clients on the legal ramifications and liabilities that may occur as a result, and assists them in fulfilling any legal obligations that may arise from the event. He also coordinates and oversees vendors that assist with the incident response process.

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Nikki Seymour

Place of birth: Albany, NY.

Where do you live? Los Angeles, CA.

Current company and position? Assistant Professor of Geology, Occidental College.

First job and what it taught me? My first job was at a pizza restaurant, where I worked hard to make sure the customers were happy with their orders. This job taught me how to work both

quickly and efficiently with a touch of improvisation, especially on very busy game days!

How do you embrace your Irish heritage? My favorite part of Irish culture is the quick wit, warm welcome, and joy that's brought to gatherings and daily life, and I try to bring that to my classroom daily. Irish folks are excellent storytellers, and what is geology but the story of the Earth? I've gotten the opportunity to study the geology of Ireland in Connemara (which, by the way, used to be attached to the Northeast -- New York really is the 33rd county of Ireland), which was a joyful blend of all of these wonderful qualities.

Something people would be surprised to know about me: In the long tradition of Irish creatives, I paint watercolor in my free time. I particularly enjoy painting landscapes and take inspiration from the many places my scientific field work takes me to.

Nikki was born in Albany, New York and split her childhood between New York and Austin, Texas. She graduated from the University of Texas at Austin and earned her PhD in Earth Science from Colorado State University. She currently lives in Los Angeles, California and spends her free time enjoying the natural beauty of Southern California.



Timothy Hatter

Place of birth: Port Jefferson, NY.

Where do you live? Babylon, NY.

Current company and position? I am the Long Island Director of Intergovernmental Affairs for New York State Attorney General Letitia James. Tish James is the first woman of color to hold statewide office in New York and the first woman to be

elected Attorney General. It's an honor to work with her.

First job and what it taught me? Citizen Advocate for the Town of Brookhaven. It taught me how to help ordinary people navigate their government.

How do you embrace your Irish heritage? It's a privilege to work for NY State Attorney General James. To be doing so and in a capacity that pays tribute to and builds upon my Irish heritage and the work going forward in Ireland and America is an unbelievable dream. I am in the very fortunate position to be a modern Thomas Francis Meagher and be in position of being able to work with crusaders in both nations, for justice.

Something people would be surprised to know about me: I'm also 8% Scottish, the Robbins family was one of Long Island's original clans. Yet my mother, who hails from that side, is the most Irish person I know. Including people from Ireland.

Irish American Affairs & Long Island Director For New York State Attorney General Letitia James. Proud Alumni of the Universities of Oswego, Tennessee, Downing College Cambridge, Haifa & the University of Edinburgh and grateful for the education and hospitality at each. Son to Doreen Mary Robbins & James Joseph Hatter. Most importantly Husband and property of Isha Katoria Hatter and a loving dog Dad to Huey.

Shane Carey

Place of birth: Philadelphia, PA.

Where do you live? Philadelphia, PA.

Current company and position? I currently serve as the Chief Judicial Administrator for Justice Kevin M. Dougherty of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania. The Pennsylvania Supreme Court serves as the state's highest court for over 13 million Pennsylvanians, and also governs and administers the judicial branch of government and the practice of law in the Commonwealth. In this role I handle all administrative and policy related matters relating to the Pennsylvania Judiciary on behalf of the Justice. Most prominently this has included spearheading Pennsylvania's nationally recognized Autism and the Courts Initiative.

The Initiative is tasked with taking a system wide look at the intersection of Autism and the Court System and works with court stakeholders, service providers, and the autism community to create better outcomes for those on the autism spectrum coming through the judicial system. Additionally, I am or have been involved in the Pennsylvania court system's response to mental and behavioral health, reforming the statewide judicial computer system, streamlining the judicial response to the immense case backlog following the Covid-19 pandemic, leading various judicial education initiatives, and assisting with legislative and budget related matters on behalf of Justice Dougherty and the Supreme Court.

I am also a member of the Mental Health Justice Advisory Committee (MHJAC) of the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency where I participate in a statewide interbranch response to mental and behavioral health in the criminal justice system.

First job and what it taught me? My first job right after college was an outside sales role with a company then called Fusion Logistics which is now part of a much larger company named Worldwide Express. I went "door-to-door" in industrial and business parks selling UPS and freight shipping to small to medium sized businesses. While it was a very mentally/emotionally taxing job at times it was the best education a young individual could receive when entering the workforce. I had to dress professionally, think on my feet, learn to quickly bounce back from setbacks, and also see how one's work ethic and response to adversity could create success. I will forever be grateful to that company and my mentors there for that opportunity to learn and grow as a professional.

How do you embrace your Irish heritage? Although I grew



up hearing from my Grandparents, especially my father's father and my mother's mother about our Irish heritage, my family took a trip over to Ireland when I was 16. I learned firsthand about the culture, the music, the friendliness of the people, and the beautiful landscape. I remember feeling so grateful that this was my family's heritage. Since that time I have visited two more times including visiting by myself in 2019 where I was able to find the plots of land in County Mayo (Father) and County Donegal (Mother) where we immigrated to Pennsylvania from.

Since moving back to Philadelphia for college and after as a professional I have been very involved with the local Irish community. I joined the AOH in our family's neighborhood in Northeast Philadelphia in 2014 (AOH 39), actually met my current employer Justice Dougherty at Philadelphia's St. Patrick's Day Parade in 2015. I try to make a point to attend as many Irish events as possible during the year in and around the area, and stay current on Irish issues both here in the United States and in Ireland. I could not be prouder to be an Irish-Catholic American and look forward to carrying that legacy into future generations.

Something people would be surprised to know about me: I was a college baseball player for St. Joseph's

University in Philadelphia, and in high school I was in the school play, played in a rock band, and was on the debate team.

Shane M. Carey, MPA, is a proud 4th Generation Irish-American with roots in Co. Mayo (Father) and Co. Donegal (Mother). Shane grew up in Williamsport, PA and returned to his birthplace of Philadelphia to play Division One Baseball at St. Joseph's University. After a brief but successful career in logistics sales Shane eventually found his passion in politics and government as the Deputy Campaign Manager for the successful statewide campaign of Pennsylvania State Supreme Court Justice Kevin M. Dougherty. Since that time Shane has served as the Chief Judicial Administrator for Justice Dougherty on the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania, which serves as the state's highest court for over 13 million Pennsylvanians.

In this role Shane handles all administrative and policy related matters relating to the Pennsylvania Judiciary on behalf of the Justice. Most prominently this has included spearheading Pennsylvania's nationally recognized Autism and the Courts Initiative. The Initiative is tasked with taking a system wide look at the intersection of Autism and the Court System and works with court stakeholders, service providers, and the autism community to create better outcomes for those on the autism spectrum coming through the judicial system. Additionally, Shane is involved in the Pennsylvania court system's response to mental and behavioral health, reforming the statewide judicial computer system, streamlining the judicial response to the immense case backlog following the Covid-19 pandemic, leading various judicial education initiatives, and assisting with legislative and budget related matters on behalf of the Justice Dougherty and the Supreme Court. Shane also is a member of the Mental Health Justice Advisory Committee (MHJAC) of the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency where he participates in a statewide interbranch response to mental and behavioral health in the criminal justice system.

Additionally, Shane is also a licensed realtor and real estate investor in Philadelphia. Shane received his B.S. from St. Joseph's University and his Master's in Public Administration from the University of Pennsylvania. He is a proud long-time member of AOH Division 39 in Northeast Philadelphia and is deeply involved with Philadelphia's Irish Community and the St. Patrick's Day Parade in Philadelphia.



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Thomas Gormely
Robert Goff
Thomas O'Connor
Frank O'Keefe
Michael Pitcher
Peter F. Whalen
*Deceased

The Grand Council extends congratulations to the Irish Echo 40 under 40 Honorees.

We warmly congratulate

Vivian Boyd, ConEd ES

Patrick Murphy, ConEd ES

Kathleen Madden, DSNY ES

Eddie Finn, FDNY ES

The Grand Council is a national organization with over 20,000 members and 28 affiliated organizations; we are proud of our Honorees who could become future Emerald Leaders.

Fraternally,

Martin Bellew

Affiliated Organizations

AZLEES, BPES, CON ED ES, DSNY ES, ESFLEA, FDNY ES, HVPES, LACOFF ES, MTAPD ES, MABSTOA ES, NCPES, NCSES, NYCD ES, NYCDOE ES, NYPD ES, NYCTA ES, NYSCT ES, NYSDOCS ES, PAPD ES, RCFF ES, SCFF ES, SCPD ES, TELE COMM ES, TBTA ES, WASH DC PES, WCCOES, WCFF ES, WPES



Margaret Walsh

Place of birth: Trenton, NJ.

Where do you live? Bordentown City, NJ.

Current company and position? I am a Special Education Teacher at Johnson Park Elementary School in Princeton, NJ.

First job and what it taught me? My first job was as an assistant teacher for my Irish Dance School. I began assisting in teaching dance classes when I was in high school and had a great experience. First, this role confirmed how much I enjoyed working with children and that this would be my life's vocation. This position taught me the importance of being both patient and flexible when working with young children. Finally, this job taught me the importance of communication.

I frequently communicated with the TCRG (certified Irish dance teacher) who was in charge of the class, as well as the students and their families.

How do you embrace your Irish heritage? My Irish heritage has always been a very important part of my life. As a child, my family was very involved in our local Irish community and this encouraged me to seek out opportunities to learn more about my Irish heritage. This strong foundation led me to continue playing an active role in our local Irish community as an adult. I truly enjoy being a member of the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians Mathair Gael Division 10. I volunteer for different fundraisers and events for our Division. Additionally, I am a passionate committee member of Gael



Scoil. The Gael Scoil is a two day program that teaches children from 6-17 about Ireland. Classes are held on food, history, language, music, dance, sports and much more. Instructors range from local volunteers and musicians, to championship dancers, university professors and authors. It is sponsored by the Ancient Order of Hibernians Division 10 in Mercer County, NJ. I look forward to planning and taking part in Gael Scoil each year and seeing our students take an

active interest in their Irish heritage, just as I did as a child.

Something people would be surprised to know about me: I competed in the World Irish Dance Championships my senior year of high school as part of a figure team.

Margaret Kathryn Walsh was born in 1991 to Jim and Patti Walsh. She has two older brothers, Noah Dennis of Marietta, GA and Raymond Walsh, who currently resides at Redemptoris Mater Seminary in Kearny, NJ. Margaret was born and raised in Hamilton, NJ and is now a resident of Bordentown City, NJ.

The Walsh family set a great example for Margaret growing up, as they played an active role in their local Irish community. Because of this, Margaret took a vested interest in her Irish roots from a young age. Many of her fondest childhood memories are of events that centered around the Irish community in the Trenton, NJ area. She began dancing with the Denogla School of Irish Dance (now the Denogla Academy) when she was five-years-old. Margaret attended many local and regional competitions. The proudest moment of her Irish dancing career was having the opportunity to compete in the World Championships in 2009 as part of a figure team.

Margaret graduated from Notre Dame High School in 2009. This was also the year she was named Miss Saint Patrick by the Trenton Saint Patrick's Day Parade Committee, a memory she still cherishes.

She went on to graduate from Rider University in 2013 with degrees in Elementary and Special Education. Margaret is a proud educator, as becoming a teacher has been a lifelong goal for her. She has been so fortunate to have had the support and encouragement of mentors that she has met along the way who have taught her so much about what it means to be an effective teacher. Margaret was a second grade teacher at Sharon Elementary School in Robbinsville, NJ for 10 years. She is currently a special education teacher at Johnson Park Elementary School in Princeton, NJ. Margaret has become very passionate about children's literacy. She is continuing her education at The College of New Jersey where is working toward her M. Ed. in Literacy with a Reading Specialist Certification.

Margaret has enjoyed being an active member of LAOH Mathair Gael Division 10 based in Trenton, NJ. She is a member of the Gael Scoil Committee, a position she loves. It warms her heart to see children taking an active interest in their Irish heritage, just as she did when she was a little girl. Margaret has also taken an active role in Division 10's partnership with Children's Home Society of NJ. She is proud to have organized annual School Supply Drives and Holiday Gift Drives to support local families in need.

Margaret is so honored to have been chosen for the Irish Echo 40 under 40. She would like to thank her family and friends for all of their support, and especially her LAOH Mathair Gael Division 10 sisters.

Colleen Kenny

Place of birth: New Jersey, USA.

Where do you live? Freehold, NJ.

Current company and position? Owner of D'Arcy School of Irish Dance.

First job and what it taught me? My first jobs in high school were babysitting and assisting my Irish dance teacher, Mrs. Murphy in classes every week. These two jobs set up the foundation for the rest of my life. My passion for children and teaching dance was forever instilled in my heart. I studied PR and Advertising in college and landed a job in NYC at a magazine corporation, but knew there was something missing in my life. I decided to quit and go full throttle towards my dream of opening my own Irish dance studio and with the support of many amazing people and the grace of God, my dream has turned into a reality with the D'Arcy School of Irish Dance!

How do you embrace your Irish heritage? I named my dance school after my grandparents, Bridget and Andrew D'Arcy who came to America for a better life. I embrace my heritage daily by teaching Irish dance to over 150 dancers ages 3.5 all the way to 70 in three locations throughout New Jersey! We honored the D'Arcy coat of arms by using designs in our logo. We perform in two parades every year, nursing homes, parties, and more!

Although we love to compete, the D'Arcy School is known for making sure our students are having FUN and enjoying the beautiful art of Irish dance! Our beautiful dancers perform both traditional dances and contemporary moves which merges the styles of old and new! I plan to continue sharing the love of dance and the Irish culture every day!

Something people would be surprised to know about me: I Irish danced and competed nationally and internationally, but my favorite experience was being able to dance on Carnegie Hall two times!

Colleen Kenny, Owner/T.C.R.G. D'Arcy School of Irish Dance. Colleen Kenny began her Irish dance journey at the age of 4 alongside her two older sisters under the fabulous instruction of Patricia Murphy.

Fascinated by her older sisters reaching the champion level, Colleen did not want to be left behind and she worked her way to the Preliminary Champion level by the age of 8 and competed at her first Eastern Regional Oireachtas under 9. She recalled and ever since she has been hooked!

Colleen has competed all across the country and in Ireland, but what she cherishes most are the shows and fun memories of her dance friendships. From dancing on Carnegie Hall to performing at nursing homes, she quickly realized there is so much more to the magic of Irish dance than just competing. She signed up for every show she could perform at, and she also started to help Mrs. Murphy with teaching classes! She loved every little thing about Irish dance and proudly performed it whenever she had the chance.

Throughout college, Colleen would come home to participate in practices for Patricia Murphy's award-winning dance dramas. Her team won the regionals twice and it was a great way to end her competitive career. She graduated college and worked in Manhattan in PR and advertising for Bonnier corporation and was given an opportunity to work in Australia. As her career was taking off, she knew deep down inside that something was missing. She went out to lunch with a coworker one day and was asked what her dream job would be. Without hesitation, Colleen responded, "to own a dance studio." That night as she rode on the train home, she realized it was now or never and never looked back. She quit her city job and went full force into her studying to get her T.C.R.G. license. She managed a restaurant, worked at an accounting office, and returned back to dance where her heart belonged.

After two years of studying, she took her exam and passed it on the first try! After a year of teaching with Patricia Murphy, Patty announced that she was going to retire, and Colleen was given the opportunity to purchase the school and make it her own. The D'Arcy School launched in June 2016.

In the past 7 years, Colleen has established a warm and caring environment that welcomes dancers of all ages, whether they want to compete or just dance as a hobby, into the studio. The D'Arcy School has 3 locations in NJ with just over 130 students ranging from 3 to 70



years old! The biggest things Colleen stresses in her school are to have FUN and to enjoy the journey.

Colleen Kenny and her husband Shawn reside in Freehold, NJ, with their two year old daughter, Grace. They are looking forward to when Grace can start taking Irish dance lessons!



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Congratulations to all the award winners!
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Michaela McFadden

Place of birth: Trenton New Jersey.
Where do you live? Bordentown New Jersey.

Current company and position? State of New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission record technician.

First job and what it taught me? My first job was a family owned grocery store called Foleys in Hamilton, New Jersey. I started there when I was 16 and worked for 6 years. It taught me that hard work pays off. The owners are a large Irish family who treated us like their own and always wanted to see us strive for greatness. They encouraged us by offering promotions, opportunities for scholarships, and helped shape us for when we were ready to move on to bigger careers.

How do you embrace your Irish heritage? I embrace my Irish heritage in many ways, but there are 2 main events that come to the forefront. The first is co-chairing the Billy Briggs Memorial scholarship, which sends 2 students to a gaeltacht in Donegal, Ireland called "Gael linn Bun An Inbhir." The other is sitting on the committee of the "Gael Scoil" where one weekend a year we teach children ages 6-17 Irish culture, history, sports, crafts, language, and so much more.

Both of these events are run jointly by members of AOH Division 10 Joe Cahill, and LAOH Division 10 Mathair Gael. I have been a part of these organizations for over 10 years now



and seeing the recipient winners come back from the gaeltacht, and the look on the face of a little kid learning to play gaelic football is so rewarding. It's an honor to pass my love for Ireland onto the younger generations.

Something people would be surprised to know about me: The Billy Briggs Memorial Scholarship, which I co-chair with my longtime friend Lauren Tracey, means so much to us because we were actually the first recipients! In 2010 Lauren and I, along with 3 other amazing girls, packed our bags and headed to Bun An Inbhir in Donegal for 3 weeks. Being the first recipients we didn't

know what to expect, but after our time spent at the gaeltacht, we knew we had to keep this scholarship going. It was the best 3 weeks of my life being immersed in the Irish culture with other Irish kids learning the beautiful language. Since taking over the scholarship we have sent over 15 American students to Bun An Inbhir.

Michaela McFadden was born in Trenton New Jersey to Mark and Jackie McFadden. Michaela's father was born in Derry City, Northern Ireland and moved to New Jersey at the young age of 23 to work. When Mark strolled into the local Irish pub in Trenton called Tir Na Nog, he met Lambertville native Jackie McCarthey, and the rest was history. Michaela made her first trip to Ireland at the young age of 5 months and has been back more times than she can count.

Michaela's father always made sure to immerse her in the culture of Ireland especially the history and culture of growing up in Derry. Michaela now lives in Bordentown, New Jersey with her partner Michael and her daughter Grace who was just born in October! Michaela works for the State of New Jersey, and on some Sundays you can find her pouring pints of Guinness behind the same bar that her parents met at all those years ago. Her main goal is to keep the younger generations involved in the Irish community she grew up in, and to always be a proud Irish American.



Nolan Maloney

Place of birth: Johnson City, NY.

Where do you live? Austin, TX.

Current company and position? Collective Advisors - Associate Wealth Advisor, Vice President Operations.

First job and what it taught me? My first job was a lawn business that a friend and I ran together. Years before joining the professional workforce, I learned the value of working for what you want, and earning what you make. I learned that serving others is healthy, and that taking pride in what you do at any level is the way to build good habits for the future.

How do you embrace your Irish heritage? Nolan is a founding member of the Ancient Order of Hibernians Division in Austin, Texas. Nolan has served in almost every post at the division level and now holds the office of Vice President at the Texas State level as well. He has been working, in an official capacity, to move the Irish American and Irish Catholic agenda further for the last 12 years of his life.

Nolan is one of 6 recipients of the Tom McNabb Young Hibernian Leadership Award - a national recognition within the Ancient Order of Hibernians for the contributions to the cause and a distinction of the highest demonstration of leadership now and into the future. Both within AOH and personal endeavors, he has partnered with the Irish Consulate in Austin, local Irish pubs, Austin's Celtic society, the local chapter of the GAA, and Irish Network USA to give back to the community and promote Irish/Irish American culture.

Something people would be surprised to know about me: I love to cook, and I love music. Something we have all learned at different points in our lives is that food and music bring people together. As someone that is fulfilled by social interaction and a sense of community, I take pride in cooking and entertaining others in an effort to bring everyone together.

Nolan Maloney spent time in the nonprofit space after college before joining the wealth management industry, where he is the Vice President of Operations and a Wealth Advisor at his firm, Collective Advisors. While serving his clients and firm, he is also pursuing his CFP designation and has pioneered the firm's community engagement program. Most of what Nolan does professionally and personally is driven by one of his core values: empowerment. He holds numerous local, state, and national roles for the Ancient Order of Hibernians and enjoys working with local nonprofits such as Mobile Loaves & Fishes to spread a sense of community and empower those around him. At home, Nolan is blessed with a loving wife, daughter, and dog (Kristen, McKenna, and Murphy). He loves attending Austin FC matches, going to concerts, and taking advantage of Austin's endless supply of restaurants.

Luke Gibbons

Place of birth: Bristol.

Where do you live? Boston.

Current company and position? I am currently a Fulbright Scholar at Harvard Law School and a PhD in Law Candidate and Irish Research Council Government of Ireland Research Scholar at Trinity College Dublin. I am also the Founder of the Ireland America Young Professionals Network.

First job and what it taught me? My first official job was as a seminar lecturer in law at Trinity College Dublin. This role taught me that encouraging people to do their best involves distinct techniques for different people. It pays off in the long term to take a moment to listen and get to know each person first rather than pursuing a one size fits all approach.

How do you embrace your Irish heritage? As an Irish person living in Boston I embrace my heritage by attending as many Irish events as possible around the city. I assist with promoting some of these events on my social media channels. I am very proud to be Irish and do my best to encourage anyone I meet to visit our country. I also have a wide circle of Irish friends in Boston.

Something people would be surprised to know about me: I have never watched a full episode of Friends.

Luke Gibbons, 27, hails from Claremorris, County Mayo, Ireland and is currently based in Boston, Massachusetts. Luke is a Fulbright Scholar and Researcher at Harvard Law School and a Ph.D. in Law Candidate and Irish Research Council Government of Ireland Scholar at Trinity College Dublin. Luke holds a First - Class Honours LL.B. with a Gold Medal from Trinity College Dublin and a BCL Master's Degree in Law with Distinction from the University of Oxford where he graduated as the Honoré Scholar.

Luke's current Fulbright research at Harvard Law School assesses the differences between company directors' duties in the United States and Ireland in light of climate change risks to business. This comparative study between the United States and Ireland is a first of its kind.

Luke also founded and established the Ireland America



Young Professionals Network (IAYPN). IAYPN has grown rapidly and now has 600 members across the United States and Ireland. Luke is the sole founding member of IAYPN which now has a board of 10 individuals all under 40 based between Ireland and the United States. Membership is free and open to all particularly: young professionals, recent graduates, and students interested in building transatlantic relationships.

This year Luke was a Legislative Fellow in the Office of Congressman Matt Cartwright on Capitol Hill as part of the Washington Ireland Program. In his role Luke worked on a number of key initiatives to promote the special relationship between Ireland and the United States.

Luke travelled to Congressman Cartwright's district (PA-08) to speak to residents who have Irish heritage. This trip included a 'Meet a Nice Irish Fellow' event in Scranton, PA. It was attended by over 100 Irish Americans who came to hear Luke's presentation on current issues in Ireland and how the relationship between the two nations is currently perceived. The event was covered by both WBRE and FOX News. In his interview on both news stations Luke spoke about the need to continue to work on the Irish American relationship and to secure its future through demonstrating its importance to younger generations.

Kalikow

Congratulations to
**2024 Irish Echo
40 Under 40
Honorees**

Érin Go Brách

101 Park Avenue, New York, NY 10178 Phone 212-808-7000



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Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians Inc.
Friendship, Unity & Christian Charity

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Kristen Martino, Our Lady of Knock Division 7, East Islip, New York

Kiera McCourt, Suffolk County Division 4, Huntington, New York

Michaela McFadden, Mathair Gael Division 10, Trenton, New Jersey

Natalie Peterinelli, Boone County Division 1, Covington, Kentucky

Margaret Walsh-Mathair, Gael Division 10, Trenton, New Jersey

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Norman McEvoy

Place of birth: Bay City, MI.

Where do you live? Sarasota, FL.

Current company and position?

President & Founder, Per Vitam Wealth Partners.

First job and what it taught me? Like many kids in the Midwest, my first job was mowing my parent's lawn. Eventually, a neighbor thought I did well and asked, "Would you mow mine next week?" I obliged, and soon after, because I was reliable, she offered me a job at her restaurant. She owned one of my family's favorite pizza places, so I got to slingin' dough soon after!

I learned that success and opportunity will soon follow if you do the job you are asked to do, do it well, and do so regularly.

How do you embrace your Irish heritage? As a kid, I moved around quite a bit and always found a kinship to the Irish events and activities in my local area. It was surprising how often I met someone, and they instantly reminded me of my Uncle, Aunt, or cousin; I suppose the archetypes are funny that way.

That sense of community got under my skin. It inspired me to be as connected and involved as possible, no matter where I found myself.

I joined the Ancient Order of Hibernians when I was eighteen (Thanks, Mr. Scott) and have been a happy member ever since. I have belonged to other similarly-minded civic and Irish organizations along the way. Still, the AOH has become a family in and of itself.

Something people would be surprised to know about me: What surprises people the most is that despite having business acumen and skills, I am more of an engineer/contractor type. I love working on plumbing, electrical, landscaping, or whatever. My grandfather jokes that he has "the most educated handyman you've never heard of!"

Norman Patrick McEvoy was born in Bay City, MI. He attended St. Ignatius (Cleveland, OH) and Regis Jesuit (Aurora, CO) for high school. He completed his undergraduate studies at Creighton University (Omaha, NE) in 2009 with a triple major in finance, marketing, and entrepreneurship. After several years of working in the financial services industry, Norman returned to academia in the fall of 2017. While attending Xavier University (Cincinnati, OH), earning his Master in Business Administration, the Cintas Institute for Business Ethics awarded him a Graduate Fellowship. After his time at Xavier, Norman attended Saint Joseph's University (Philadelphia, PA), earning a Master of Sciences in Finance.

Subsequently, he earned a Chartered Financial Consultant® designation from the American College of Financial Services (King of Prussia, PA).

In his free time, Norman enjoys his close friends and family; you can usually find him volunteering at the local VFW, American Legion, his church, or working within the Irish-American community.

Norman is an avid golfer, though you wouldn't know it by his score, and enjoys entertaining with home-cooked meals as often as he can.

Richie Hartnett

Place of birth: Ballyheigue, Co.Kerry, Ireland.

Where do you live? Yonkers.

Current company and position?

Current Owner of HD Building Solutions, HD Office Solutions, HD Realty Solutions, MAD Group LLC and a growing Property Portfolio.

First job and what it taught me? My first job was a 12 month internship with Walsh Glass and Metal in Yonkers in 2008, it taught me that New York waits for nobody, especially in the Construction world, you're learning every day.

How do you embrace your Irish heritage? I currently manage the New York Senior Hurlers who just won the Senior Connaught Hurling league in NUIG Air Dome in Mayo on January 6th.

I Manage the Waterford New York Senior Hurling team; I hold the position of the New York Hurling Division Chairperson since 2020. I train and help out with underage hurling teams from U7 to U18. I played and coached for NY Irish Soccer side Lansdowne Bhoys from 2008-2023. Our Family owned companies are heavily involved with The Aisling Irish Community Center and NYGAA organizations.

Something people would be surprised to know about me: I came from a family of Undertakers in Ballyheigue Co.Kerry

and I also used to be a DJ in Ireland before moving to NYC.

Richie was born in Ballyheigue, Co Kerry on Christmas eve 1984 to parents John & Patricia Hartnett, he's the eldest of four, with 2 brothers Mikey & Tadhg and sister Kelly.

Richie was involved in sport from a very early age and played GAA, Soccer and Badminton all the ways up to Adult level before getting into Coaching.

As a teenager and into his early 20's Richie held multiple part-time jobs in the Hartnett family businesses and elsewhere while he completed Secondary School in Mounthawk Tralee and up until he graduated from Tralee Institute of



Technology with a Degree in civil engineering.

In 2008 He used this degree to apply to a position in New York as an autocad drafter and assistant project manager for Walsh Glass & Metal in Yonkers where he worked for 6 years.

In 2014 he moved to AM Architectural Metal & Glass Inc where he worked as a Senior Project Manager working on many Custom Glass projects from elevator lobbies to multi story skyscrapers. He worked there until Covid hit in 2020.

In 2003 Richie met the love of his Life, now wife, Aine Dempsey, they have 2 kids Daithi 7 & Aoife 2.

Together Richie and Aine have amassed a blossoming entrepreneurial empire that started with HD Office Solutions and has grown to HD Building Solutions, HD Realty Solutions, Mad Group LLC and are building a property portfolio.

Richie and his family reside in Yonkers and heavily involved in the local Irish Community including The Aisling Irish Community Center and NYGAA.

On January 6th just passed Richie Managed the New York Senior Hurling Team to their first ever Connaught hurling title, beating Leitrim, Galway and Mayo on their way to lift the Trophy.

Patrick Murphy

Place of birth: Bronx, NY, USA.

Where do you live? Yonkers, NY.

Current company and position? IT/Media Consultant & President of New Logical.

First job and what it taught me? My first job was working as a student videographer for MSG Varsity Network, and it taught me that to really stand out, you have to leave a position in a higher standard than it was before.

How do you embrace your Irish heritage? I embrace my Irish heritage by keeping myself involved in Irish sports clubs, advocating for Irish culture in the AOH, and always suggesting that my friends try McDonnell's curry on their chips.

Something people would be surprised to know about me: I'm an Irish-American, but also proud to be of Indian-Guyanese descent. The fact that famous singer from Thin Lizzy Phil Lynott was the only other Irish-Guyanese person that I can research & identify, and that he made such an impact in Irish media inspired me that I can one day do the same in my own way.

Patrick K. Murphy was born in The Bronx in New York City. His Irish ancestry goes back to Patrick J. Murphy, who emigrated to New York from Ennistymon, Co. Clare in 1902. He grew up and still lives around McLean Avenue in Yonkers, near Woodlawn. For

most of his life, he was interested in computers, digital media and technology, developing computer animated cartoons to show to his classmates at St. Barnabas in The Bronx, later helping with tech and sound in their talent shows and school productions.

He developed his first website in 2003, going live in 2006. At Sacred Heart High School in Yonkers, he was a stage actor and played on the soccer team, but also helped with technology, running the student chapter of MSG Varsity, filming games of the various school teams, and was the editor of the Yearbook. At Baruch College, he was the General Manager of the radio station, increasing and improving the weekly programming on the radio, receiving the Student Media Leadership Award at graduation, and being permanently appointed to the College Association Board of Directors a year later.

After years of being the "go-to" guy for technology and media, he went on to found New Logical, where he went on to serve the IT and Digital



Media needs of over 250 businesses, non-profits, and government entities. In 2019, he played for Lansdowne Rugby Football Club, at the same time established the livestreaming branch of New Logical, making Lansdowne the first Rugby club in North America to professionally stream all their matches, televising their Empire GU championship that fall.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, he connected with Lansdowne Yonkers FC (soccer), livestreaming all of the matches of their 9 trophy winning 2020-21 season, including the National Amateur Cup. In 2023, he began to livestream the NY GAA, covering all of the senior football, hurling and camogie finals to a combined audience of 163,000 fans. In 2023, he was honored as a Wunderkind in Westchester Magazine. He currently sits on the Yonkers Human Rights Commission, serves as Treasurer of the Ancient Order of Hibernians Westchester Division 17, and is Secretary of the McLean Avenue Merchants Association.

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**Today is Your Day!
Huge Congratulations to
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**40 Under 40 Nominees
for 2024**

**We could not be prouder of you both!
From all your Hibernian sisters & brothers
LAOH Mathair Gael Division 10 &
AOH Joe Cahill Division 10
Mercer County, New Jersey**

Natalie Peterinelli

Place of birth: Greensburg, PA.

Where do you live? Cincinnati, OH.

Current company and position? MegaCorp Logistics, Senior National Account Operations Specialist.

First job and what it taught me? Food and Beverage at Mt. Odin Golf Course in Greensburg, PA. Teamwork. Accountability. Communication.

How do you embrace your Irish heritage? Involved in various roles across the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians, Inc. Member of the Irish Heritage Center of Greater Cincinnati. Participant in Irish cultural events in the Cincinnati area.

Natalie Peterinelli was born in Greensburg, PA to Jeffery and Stephanie Peterinelli. Her maternal great-great-grandparents emigrated to Greensburg, PA from County Cork and Belfast in the 1890s. Natalie's family remained close to their Irish heritage and involved Natalie and her younger sister, Vanessa, in their heritage by blending Irish holiday traditions, sharing traditional stories and songs, and traveling as a family to Ireland. Natalie's family also immersed her in their Catholic faith. She also attended Catholic school for both her primary and secondary education. To pursue her undergraduate education, Natalie moved in 2011, attending Xavier University in

Cincinnati, OH, where she resides.

Upon earning her Bachelor of Science in Business Administration in Management from Xavier University in 2015, Natalie began her professional career in retail management spanning eight years where she held roles such as; Team Leader at Target, Visual Merchandising and Operations Assistant Manager for New York and Company, and Assistant Sales Manager at Everything But Water. In 2022, Natalie decided to expand the trajectory of her career and accepted a position as a director of operations, with oversight and direct responsibility for a multi-million-dollar national account for MegaCorp Logistics; a nationally recognized freight brokerage company.

In Natalie's adult years, the family traditions and pride in her Irish heritage and Catholic upbringing naturally drew her to join her Great-aunt, Susanna Carroll, as a Hibernian. Becoming a third-generation Hibernian, Natalie proudly became a



member of the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians, Inc., in 2016 joining the Boone County Division 1 in Kentucky. She has served in roles at the division, state, and national levels. Natalie currently serves on the LAOH National Board and was elected Missions and Charities Officer in 2022. At the state level, Natalie served as Treasurer for two terms and is currently serving in her second term as Vice-President of the LAOH Kentucky State Board, and bylaws committee chair. At the division level, Natalie previously served in the office of Division Vice President for two terms and is currently in her second term as Division President of the Boone County LAOH Division.

In Natalie's spare time, she volunteers in her community and wherever there is a need. Natalie is an avid sports fan, with season tickets to support the University of Cincinnati Football team. She also spends her free time with her family and friends, and when rest is needed, she likes to cozy with a good book.

Molly O'Keefe

Place of birth: New York.

Where do you live? New York (left Los Angeles 1/31).

Current company and position? Paradiso Media, Head of Development and Producer.

First job and what it taught me? My first job was a lifeguard at the Ardsley Swim and Tennis Club where I worked every summer during high school. The job was pretty laid back and I worked with my best friends, so not sure how much I was learning. But one thing it did teach me was to treat everyone above and below you with respect. Like any



job, it had its internal politics and one of the guys who was on the maintenance staff cleaning toilets my first summer ended up managing the whole pool and being all of our boss by my last summer there. It's something I've seen happen many times throughout my career - those at the bottom will move up and those at the top likely won't stay there forever, so be nice to everyone. **How do you embrace your Irish heritage?** I am very proud of my Irish heritage and have deep Irish roots with both paternal grandparents having hailed from County Kerry and Mayo relations through my maternal grandfather. In 2011, I was the Southern California Rose of Tralee and have remained very close to my fellow participants who are now dear friends visiting them all over Ireland and the different cities all over the world throughout the last decade.

I am a member of the Kerry Association of New York where my father and Grandfather are past presidents. I try to attend their events when I lived there and in town, especially every St. Patrick's Day to march up 5th Avenue in the NY Parade and on McLean Avenue in Yonkers. I volunteered for the Irish Film Festival of Los Angeles when I first moved there and remain active in supporting Irish Arts in Los Angeles. I have attended the Galway Film Festival through work and on my own a few times over the last few years.

Something people would be surprised to know about me: It is in my bio, but I do think people are surprised to learn I am a basketball ref. They would probably be even more surprised if they saw me work because I can be pretty tough.

Molly O'Keefe is a producer and head of development at Paradiso Media, an award winning global podcast production company working in fiction, documentary and kids podcasts. This past year she also

produced the short film END OF THE PARTY that is waiting on its festival premiere. Prior to Paradiso she oversaw Artists Programs at Tribeca Film Institute serving its mission to fight gender and racial inequality in the entertainment industry and she was an executive at Sundance Productions and Red Hour Films working in television. She spent the start of her career working for the writer/director Roger Kumble and most notably produced a play he wrote and directed starring Brooke Shields and Constance Zimmer in Los Angeles.

Her Irish heritage has always been a major part of her life and it remains so today. In 2011, Molly represented Southern California in the International Rose of Tralee Festival. She Irish danced for many years when she was younger moving on to play Irish Football during the summers in high school and college, playing for Kerry-Donegal. In 2004, she was named Player of the Year. She is an avid athlete having played basketball and ran cross-country in both college and high school. She is a certified basketball Official in both LA and New York still reffing games most weekends.

Molly received her BA in TV and Video Production from Emerson College, in Boston, in 2006. She spent a summer at the University of Galway studying Gaelic in Connemara and a did a semester in the Los Angeles Program where she interned at 20th Century Fox.

Seamus Balfe

Place of birth: Shanagolden, West Limerick, Ireland.

Where do you live? East Durham, NY.

Current company and position? Owner, Emerald Gigs (Music Promotions) emeraldgigs.com

First job and what it taught me? My first job was at the Rathkeale House Hotel in County Limerick, Ireland. It was there I realized my calling was in hospitality and all things related to Irish culture.

How do you embrace your Irish heritage? It's second nature to me I guess. Everything I do revolves around my Irish heritage and culture and my passion of keeping the tradition alive here in New York and beyond.

Something people would be surprised to know about me: I have a very famous cousin who composes music for well-known movies and best-selling video games. His name is Lorne Balfe.



Originally from Shanagolden, County Limerick, Seamus Balfe's deep connection to Irish music was nurtured during his childhood, touring with his renowned grandfather, Sean Nos singer Con Greaney. He later moved to Yonkers where his love for Irish music quickly led him to visit East Durham, NY where he now resides and can be found working at McGrath's Pub & Resort, owned by friends Colleen and Dermot Fenlon.

Seamus's love for East Durham and his passion for Irish culture led him to become a key figure in raising funds for the MJQ Irish Cultural & Sports Centre, by co-directing the East Durham Irish Festival over the past two years, teaming up with Andy Cooney to ensure its continued success. This past year, he collaborated once again with a team of musicians and promoters to introduce the 1st Annual German Festival at the cultural centre grounds.

For the last three years Seamus has served as the Financial Secretary for The Greene County AOH Mass Rock Division 2 and was recently honored last fall with the Tim O'Sullivan Award, as the first recipient of this award. This newly revived AOH Division in Greene County grew 400% in the last few years with Seamus playing a significant role in expanding the division.

Seamus is currently the Treasurer for the East Durham St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee and is hard at work making sure the first St. Patrick's Day Parade in more than 30 years will be a big success.

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Nick Melson

Place of birth: Lewiston, NY.

Where do you live? Lewiston, NY.

Current company and position? Manager of Government and Community Engagement at the New York State Canal Corporation. I also work as the Regional Project Manager for the Executive Chamber on the Lake Ontario Resiliency and Economic Development Initiative (REDI.).

First job and what it taught me? My first professional experience was as an intern and later a legislative aide in the Albany Office of Assemblywoman Francine DelMonte of Niagara County. This job taught me the value of hard work and the reward that comes from working in the service of others. I eventually worked my way up to legislative director and then served as Chief of Staff for Assemblywoman Barrett in the Hudson Valley.

How do you embrace your Irish heritage? My Irish heritage is an important part of who I am. My family came to this country from County Claire in search of a new life and planted roots in Western New York at the turn of the 20th Century. It is their spirit of hard work, struggle, and sacrifice that drives me to this day. I am proud of my forebears and thankful for the challenges they faced and the sacrifices they made so that I can have a better life. I have been a member

of the Ancient Order of Hibernians in Albany and Niagara County for nearly 15 years and currently serve as the Vice President of Niagara County Division 1 in Niagara Falls. Hibernianism is a wonderful brotherhood and we have been able to accomplish much by living our motto of friendship, brotherhood, and Christian Charity.

Something people would be surprised to know about me: During the Pandemic I took up Cycling and have competed in races in the US and Canada at Distances from 44 up to over 100 miles.

Born and raised in Western New York Nick attended local schools graduating from Niagara Falls High School. As a senior in High School, Nick ran for Niagara Falls City Council at 18 as a class project for his Participation in Government Class. This experience instilled a lifelong interest in State and Local Government and Politics and Nick graduated from Buffalo State University with a Degree in Political Science and Public Administration.

Nick was selected as a New York State Assembly Internship Scholar through SUNY Albany and was a member of the 2008 Cohort where he won the Distinguished Intern Award and had a policy analysis of Health Care legislation published. Nick also studied comparative Public Administration in Dortmund, Germany under the guidance of Professor

Keith Henderson of Buffalo State as well as Local Government Innovation at the Harvard Kennedy School of Government.

After graduating College, Nick worked in several Assembly offices most recently as Chief of Staff to Assemblymember Didi Barrett of the Hudson Valley. In 2016, Nick returned home to Western New York to serve as Confidential Secretary to Mayor Paul Dyster of Niagara Falls and then later as City Administrator, one of the youngest City Administrators in the City's history.

At the end of the Dyster Administration, Nick accepted a role with then Governor Cuomo as a Regional Program Manager for the Lake Ontario Resiliency and Economic Development Initiative (REDI). This unique program has built resilient infrastructure along the New York Shore of Lake Ontario and has won numerous industry awards.

During the pandemic as the construction industry slowed, Nick took on an additional role as Manager of Government and Community Engagement with the New York State Canal Corporation. In his role with canals Nick serves as the main point of contact for elected officials and canal community stakeholders in Western New York as well as supporting the award winning Reimagine the Canals Program which reconnects New Yorkers with the Canal System and is reimagining its uses as it embarks on its third century of operation.



In 2019, Nick married the love of his life Nicole Devantier, the couple resides along the Niagara River in Lewiston, NY and has two children, Franklin age 3 and Lillian age 1, as well as their two special needs rescued Yorkshire Terriers Mario and Gia.

An avid tennis player Nick enjoys playing in local leagues and competes in the USTA Eastern Region League in the Summer.



Robert Sullivan

Place of birth: Hartford, CT.

Where do you live? Wethersfield, CT.

Current company and position? Vice President and Chief Financial Officer at RBC Bearings Incorporated.

First job and what it taught me? My first job was washing golf carts and maintaining the driving range at a local public golf course. In addition to learning to dodge golf balls while picking up the driving range, it taught me responsibility (when they say to arrive at 7:00AM, they mean 7:00AM!). I also learned how to work with people from various backgrounds in different stages of life. I always appreciated the stories and wisdom some of the retirees would share in between their rounds on the course. I still carry many of their lessons with me

today.

How do you embrace your Irish heritage? My Irish heritage has been a very important part of my life. Both of my parents came from Irish American backgrounds, and with my grandparents and extended family always shared what they valued about where we came from. In addition to cultural events including the annual dinner with the Friendly Sons of St. Patrick or the occasional Friday night at the Irish American Home in Glastonbury, I try to honor the gift of my heritage by sharing it with my young daughters. Whether singing old Irish lullabies, celebrating their interest in Irish dance, bringing stories home from golf trips to Ireland, or simply telling them about family members they never got a chance to meet, it is important to me that the beauty of our heritage continues to be passed on. I'm proud

that they will happily tell you St. Patrick's Day is one of their favorite days of the year.

Rob Sullivan is the current Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of RBC Bearings Incorporated. Previously he worked at Sikorsky Aircraft Corporation in business development, program finance and financial planning and analysis and at Ernst & Young LLP as an Audit Manager. Rob holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Accounting from Fairfield University, a Master of Science degree in Accounting and Taxation from the University of Hartford, and a Master of Business Administration degree from the University of Connecticut. He is a licensed certified public accountant. Rob lives in Wethersfield, CT with his wife Katelyn and four daughters.

Jennifer Hopkins

Place of birth: Nyack, NY.

Where do you live? Albany, NY.

Current company and position? Term Law Clerk for a Magistrate Judge in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of New York.

First job and what it taught me? My first job was tutoring at Kumon Tutoring Center - I worked with kids aged 5-13 on their reading abilities. At this job, I learned basic life skills - such as showing up on time and communicating with my coworkers and supervisor. I also learned how to work with children.

How do you embrace your Irish heritage? I've always been a proud Irish American. I was born and raised in New York, and have a large family that loves to celebrate being Irish - my fondest memories involve getting together with my cousins every March 17 in our Irish sweaters to listen to my brother play the bagpipes, eat my mom's Irish soda bread, and watch the parade. I also grew up Irish dancing and competed in many feiseanna. Because of these great memories, I decided to apply for

dual citizenship when I was about 20 years old (my paternal grandfather was born and raised in Co. Mayo - so I decided to apply for citizenship through a foreign birth). I now proudly identify as an American and Irish citizen, and hope to be able to embrace my Irish heritage more through my professional career.

Something people would be surprised to know about me: I was an intern for the Obama White House in 2016!

Jennifer Hopkins is a Term Law Clerk for a Magistrate Judge in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of New York. Prior to this clerkship, Jennifer served as a Judicial Law Clerk for the Board of Immigration Appeals in Falls Church, Virginia, through the DOJ Honors Program. She is passionate about public service, the law, and its ability to create positive change in the world.

Jennifer earned her B.A. degree from the University of Maryland in 2017, and her J.D. degree from St. John's University School of Law in 2021. In her free time, Jennifer can be found painting custom house portraits for her Etsy shop and lounging with her two dogs, Maisey and Lola.





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Kiera McCourt

Place of birth: New York, NY.

Where do you live? Huntington, NY.

Current company and position? Dime Community Bank Project Manager.

First job and what it taught me? My first job beyond neighborhood babysitting was at Cold Stone Creamery. I learned valuable lessons in customer service, time management, and teamwork. Interacting with customers taught me the importance of patience and adaptability, while the fast-paced environment honed my ability to prioritize tasks efficiently. Working alongside a diverse team, I discovered the significance of collaboration and effective communication in achieving shared goals.

How do you embrace your Irish heritage? My Irish heritage has always been very important to me. My paternal grandparents were both born and raised in Tyrone and I've cherished the opportunities I've had to visit our family that remains there. I also have Irish heritage through my mother's lineage from Waterford, Mayo, and Galway. I have been involved with the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians since 2015

when the Huntington Division was revived. I have served our division as Treasurer, President, and currently as our Vice President and have worked to build the divisions membership and impact within our community.

I've also taken the opportunity to explore my Irish heritage through recent projects in my pottery. I've created original pieces inspired by Newgrange, Fionn mac Cumhaill, emigration during the Great Hunger, and the work of Manchán Magan to safeguard coastal Irish language. My next series will explore the stories of the families of my sisters in the LAOH.

Something people would be surprised to know about me: People would be surprised to learn that I lived in Vancouver, BC for a few months in 2007 and worked as a PA on a film set.

Honored with a spot on this year's 40 under 40 list, Kiera, a seasoned retail banking professional with 14+ years of expertise, showcases an outstanding career marked by achievements in customer service, sales, and operations. Since her transition to project management in 2023, she has

been a driving force behind bank initiatives, leveraging her skills to enhance operational efficiency. Kiera is also a dedicated advocate for diversity and inclusion. She actively participates in the bank's Women's Affinity Group, contributing to fostering a supportive and empowering environment for women within the organization.

Beyond her career, Kiera is deeply rooted in her community. Currently the Vice President of the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians, Division 4 - Huntington, she has helped the organization grow membership and build stronger partnerships with other community organizations. She sits on the board of the Huntington Township Chamber of Commerce and the Finance Committee after serving as the chair for the Chamber's Young Professionals committee for 3 years. Kiera also steers the selection committee for the Patrick Thomas McCourt Memorial Scholarship in memory of her brother who passed away in 2011.

None of this would be possible without the unwavering support of her husband, Taylor, and their three children. Balancing her roles as a professional, community leader, and mother, she remains an active



member of the Art League of Long Island, showcasing her passion for pottery, and cherishes moments with her nose buried in a book during her leisure time.



Kris Maines

Place of birth: Pasadena, CA.

Where do you live? South Pasadena, CA.

Current company and position? Huntington Hospital, Pasadena CA Registered Nurse.

First job and what it taught me? Grocery bagger. It taught me the value of a smile and a hello. You get out what you put in.

How do you embrace your Irish heritage? By speaking about it with anyone who'll listen. By trying to bring together and connect all of the Irish and Catholic people and organizations that I come across.

Something people would be surprised to know about me: I'm learning Munster Irish. I just received my Irish passport in the mail 3 months ago. I'm a tri-citizen (US, IRE, UK), parents born in Liverpool, UK and a grandmother born in Kerry, Ireland.

Kris Maines was born in Pasadena, CA to 2 brits from Liverpool. Irish grandparents from Kerry. I have a twin sister named Kerry also. I was raised in New Zealand, UK, and USA as a child. I've been a nurse for 7 years now and for the last 3 years I have been a mental health nurse. I've been married to my high school sweetheart for 2 and a half years now. No kids yet, hopefully soon. My father Jim passed away 6 months ago, I think he would have been very proud of me for being nominated.

Kathleen Madden

Place of birth: Queens, NY.

Where do you live? Broad Channel, NY.

Current company and position? I am a Supervisor for the New York City Department of Sanitation, assigned to Queens West 5 garage and am currently detached to the GPS unit.

First job and what it taught me? My first job was a teen assistant to camp counselors at a summer camp for local kids. Reflecting on my summers working at camp, I can see that it taught me to be a leader who showed the campers guidance and served as a role model who influenced their behavior. Another key to leading and influencing younger children is to stay positive in any situation, something so important to remember in your day to day activities. Another great lesson to take away from my time at camp was the value of organization and preparedness. It doesn't feel too good when there are ten sets of little eyes staring at you waiting for you to find your words or ideas! Ultimately, I learned to be a leader and a teacher.

How do you embrace your Irish heritage? Growing up in close proximity to the "Irish Riviera" itself, Rockaway Beach, I was always exposed to Irish culture and music. As a young teen, I developed a love for the music in particular, and began taking practice chanter lessons from my next-door neighbors, eventually leading me to a lifelong involvement with bagpipe bands. As a high school and college student I was always heavily involved in the school bands, looking after the new players and trying to develop this small musical community further. As an adult, I am an active member of the DSNY Emerald Society, promoting fraternalism through common Irish roots and preservation of Irish music.

Something people would be surprised to know about me: I am a third generation NYC Sanitation Worker!

Kathleen had the privilege of growing up in Broad Channel, Queens, a tight-knit community just a stone's throw away from the famous "Irish Riviera" of Rockaway Beach. With many Irish Americans residing in the neighborhood, Kathleen was exposed to the richness of Irish culture and heritage from a young age. She developed a love for Irish music and began taking practice chanter lessons from her next-door neighbors, eventually leading her to a lifelong involvement with bagpipe bands.

As a teenager, Kathleen was a budding bagpiper



and played with her neighbor's band, the New York City Correction Department Pipe Band, her first foray into an NYC service band. Throughout her four years at Archbishop Molloy High School, Kathleen played with the school's pipe and drum band, taking on the pipe sergeant and pipe major role while nurturing and encouraging new players. Kathleen continued to foster her passion for music and leadership when she enrolled at Manhattan College, where she spent four years supporting and mentoring the school's band, forging new friendships, and promoting camaraderie through their shared Irish heritage. During her teenage years, Kathleen also competed with the Martin Duffy Memorial Pipe Band, where she honed her skills and developed a keen ear for tuning.

In 2018, when NYC Department of Sanitation hired Kathleen as a Sanitation Worker, she showcased her leadership and friendship among her fellow bandmates in the DSNY Emerald Society Pipes and Drums. Her musical skills and dedication to her craft were finally recognized when she was appointed as the pipe sergeant of the DSNY Emerald Society band in March 2022, making her the first female to hold the position in the history of any New York City service band.

In October of 2021, Kathleen was promoted to Supervisor and is currently detached to the GPS unit where she installs and repairs the GPS devices on all of the department's equipment across the five boroughs.

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Declan O'Brien

Place of birth: Co. Antrim.

Where do you live? New Rochelle, NY.

Current company and position? Options Information Technology.

Director, Trading Infrastructure Operations.

First job and what it taught me? My first job was working as a kitchen porter in a local hotel where I grew up in Ballygally, Co. Antrim. It taught me invaluable lessons in hard work, resilience and the importance of teamwork. It showed me from a young age that each role in a business or organization (from the porter to the head chef) plays a critical part in creating a seamless experience for customers. There is significance in every task no matter how seemingly small. The hospitality industry is demanding, and this job cultivated a sense of perseverance that has stayed with me through my career.

How do you embrace your Irish heritage? Living in New York I try to remain deeply connected to my Irish roots and take great pride in passing on my heritage to my young son, Finn. While not quite old enough to fully appreciate "home", I use bedtime stories to share my family's history along with many Irish myths and legends. It's important to me that he understands the journey that brought our family to where we are today. He will soon be picking up Gaelic Football! I am also very involved with events in the local Irish community, including the Irish Consulate First Friday Breakfast and St Patrick's Day Parades.

Fortunately Options Technology have their head office based in Belfast so I can visit home with my family often, and work with many Irish colleagues every day. I also

introduced my wife to Guinness which is now her beverage of choice!

Something people would be surprised to know about me:

People would probably be surprised to know I have a Master's degree in Computer Games Technology, and while I'm not working in that particular industry, I used my skills to create a video game to propose to my now wife!

Declan was born and raised in Ballygally, County Antrim. After moving to the south of England and completing his undergrad studies he went on to receive a master's in Computer Games Technology from Bournemouth University. Declan now works as a Director of Trading Infrastructure Operations at Options Technology, a managed service provider which specializes in colocation and proximity services providing Financial Services customers access to key liquidity centers globally, across all asset classes.

Declan started his career with Options in 2014 in Belfast as a UNIX systems engineer. After spending six months between their Belfast and London offices, Declan moved to New York in early 2015 to expand his remit and pursue an opportunity within technical account



management alongside his engineering role. Finding himself responsible for various high-profile clients, including industry leading hedge funds, banks and stock exchanges for the company, Declan quickly established himself as a key member of the account team, helping his clients navigate complex infrastructure projects while reacting to market challenges.

In his current role Declan provides a wide range of leadership support for his team. This includes mentoring new colleagues, particularly new Irish teammates who move over to New York. Declan shares with them the benefit of his experiences in the city and helps introduce them to his network and the Irish community both socially and professionally. He helps develop fledgling careers in the fintech

world and works to strengthen and maintain the transatlantic links Options prides itself on - paving the way for the next generation of Irish in this field on Wall Street.

Declan currently lives in New Rochelle, NY with his wife Aimee, 2-year-old son Finn and dog Harry. In his spare time, you can find Declan out for a hike, crafting an elevated cocktail or perfecting his approach to grilling steak.

Bridget Linton

Place of birth: Akron, Ohio.

Where do you live? Cleveland, Ohio.

Current company and position? I am the in-game and event host and reporter for the Cleveland Browns. Along with my position within the NFL, I am also the spokesperson for several local and national brands. Lastly, I am an official host for the Miss Universe organization.

First job and what it taught me? I started my very first job when I was 16 years old. I embarked on a meaningful journey as an Irish dance instructor under Tim O'Hare. Being entrusted with the responsibility of guiding and nurturing the next generation through dance was a profound experience. It wasn't just about teaching the intricate steps of Irish dance; it was about instilling discipline, teamwork, perseverance, and a love for the art form. Witnessing the growth and development of my students, both as dancers and individuals, was incredibly rewarding and taught me so much about myself.

My first professional career move upon graduating college was working at FOX Sports Ohio. I had the privilege of covering some of the most iconic teams in Cleveland sports, including the then Indians, Cavaliers, and Browns. Those years as a young broadcaster taught me the power of hard work, patience, and belief in yourself.

How do you embrace your Irish heritage?

I have always taken pride in my Irish heritage, and I embrace it in various ways that reflect both my love for the culture and my personal connection to it. One of the highlights of my connection to Ireland is through my love of Irish dance. As a seven-time world qualifier and medal holder, I have competed all over North America, and in Ireland and Scotland for regional, national, and ultimately, the World Championships. I began dancing at the age of four. It is not just the competitive side of Irish dance that brings me joy. I love to perform and embrace my Irish heritage through dance wherever there is a stage. I had the privilege of touring with the National Symphony in their "Celtic

Celebration" tour and have performed with The Chieftains. One of my favorite ways to stay connected to my local Irish family and network is through performing with the many talented musicians we have in Ohio. I love to perform with my Uncle Kevin's Irish band, "Callahan & O'Connor."

In 2011, my name was put on the Wall of Roses in Tralee as I had the honor of representing Ohio as the 2011 Ohio Rose of Tralee. I will cherish that year forever. It was a whirlwind of incredible opportunities. One of the things that fascinates me about the Rose of Tralee is the friendships that are formed. It is remarkable how an unbreakable bond can form in a short amount of time, a bond that withstands the test of time and distance. Being a member of the Rose family is an honor of the highest degree. I continue to encourage young women of Irish descent to join in this sisterhood and celebrate their Irish heritage.

Participating in local Irish events, festivals, and community gatherings is another way of celebrating my heritage and sharing it with others. My mother, Kathleen Linton, is the one who has shaped me into who I am today. My mother was the



youngest National President of the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians in America. My grandfather also served as the Ohio State President. I became a junior member at a young age and am now a proud member of the LAOH in Akron. Along with the LAOH, I have also been a member of the Cleveland Irish Network since its inception, working closely alongside Honorary Consul of Ireland, Mark Owens. I also co-host Gerry Quinn's Irish radio show on Sunday's when I am not hosting a Cleveland Browns game. I have worked on many charitable and cultural events throughout the state of Ohio. This past year, I had the honor of being the celebrity MC for the Akron St. Patrick's Day parade and have also been the MC for numerous testimonial dinners for my brothers and sisters in the Ancient Order of Hibernians.

Something people would be surprised to know about me:

No matter where I am, what I am doing, or who I am with, my "fun fact" is always my passion for Irish dance. Although I have hung up my competitive dance shoes, it remains a showstopper and my "bar trick" whenever I need to impress. My favorite story, one that always surprises people, is that I Irish danced for Missy Elliot via FaceTime! It was an unforgettable experience, and to think that I had the chance to showcase my talent for someone as iconic as Missy, especially as she was recently inducted into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame. It is a moment that will stay with me forever. It was a unique and thrilling intersection of my Irish dance background and the world of music.

Born in Akron, Ohio, Bridget Linton has led a multifaceted and accomplished life, marked by achievements in both the world of Irish dance and the dynamic field of media and broadcasting. Academically, Bridget pursued higher education at The University of Akron, where she earned a degree in Mass Media Communication with a minor in Sports Management. During her time at The University of Akron, she was not only a dedicated student but also a proud member of The University of Akron dance team,

showcasing her commitment to both academics and the art of dance. Bridget was also involved in ZTV and WZIP, Akron's student run television and radio programs.

Bridget was recognized by the state of Ohio as Miss Ohio Teen USA in 2010. Throughout her year of traveling across the state and competing on the national stage of Miss Teen USA, she knew that she had a passion for making a difference in the lives of others. Beyond Bridget's professional endeavors, she is deeply involved in charitable work. She is a passionate advocate for pediatric cancer. Having watched her nephew, Luke, battle leukemia for several years, she knew that she wanted to do more for all children that are battling cancer. Bridget supports several organizations including the Children's Cancer Family Foundation. Bridget has served as an advocate and MC the foundation. She has helped the CCFE organization grant over \$700K in financial assistance for the families that need it most. In addition, Bridget recently participated as a dancer in Akron Children's Hospital's "Dancing for the Kids" fundraiser event that raised over \$150,000 for pediatric cancer research and support. The Make-A-Wish foundation made such a difference in her nephew's life she knew she wanted to be more involved. Bridget is now serving as board member and MC for the Make-A-Wish fundraiser events in Ohio, Kentucky, and Indiana.

Outside of her pediatric cancer awareness involvement, Bridget remains active in the annual "Feed the Need" event in Cleveland. She helps serve thousands of meals alongside professional athletes and other media personalities to those less fortunate during the holidays. She is also involved in the annual "Toys-for-Tots" event, supports Hope Meadows charitable organization, Nana's Tribe, and more. Bridget is dedicated to making a positive impact on her community, embodying the spirit of giving back and inspiring other to join in the journey of making the world a better place. Bridget strives to continue to inspire others and remains a proud representative of her Irish heritage.

Eddie Finn

Place of birth: Brooklyn, NY.
Where do you live? Staten Island, NY.
Current company and position? New York City Fire Department Firefighter - Ladder 157.
First job and what it taught me? At the age of 18 I enlisted in the United States Coast Guard Reserve. Joining the Coast Guard taught me the importance of discipline, commitment, and professional bearing. I strive every day to live up to our core values of honor, respect, and devotion to duty.
How do you embrace your Irish heritage? I'd like to think that I embrace my Irish heritage through service to my country and community. The United States wouldn't be what it is today without the contributions of hardworking Irish-American veterans and civil servants; most of whom emigrated during times of war and national/personal struggle. When I look back on those Irish-American



individuals, I'm enamored by their love for their faith, family, country, and heritage. I take pride in the Irish-Catholic ethos of "here I am, send me." I am proud to wear two of the world's most revered uniforms. It's an honor to carry-on the legacy of those brave, Irish-Americans who swore a similar oath; especially those who have made the supreme sacrifice in the line of duty.
Something people would be surprised to know about me: I am an avid traveler with a passion for history. My favorite time period is World War II.

Edward J. Finn III (30) was appointed to the New York City Fire Department on June 29, 2015. Eddie is currently assigned to Ladder 157 in Flatbush, Brooklyn. He was previously assigned to Engine 227 in Ocean Hill, Brooklyn. Eddie is a member of the FDNY Emerald Society where he serves on the board, holding the position of Corresponding Secretary. Additionally, he is a member of the FDNY Emerald Society Pipes & Drums Color Guard as

well as a member of the FDNY Holy Name Society. Eddie holds a bachelor's degree in communication from La Salle University. While studying at La Salle, Eddie was a member of Sigma Phi Epsilon and a member of La Salle's Men's Recreational Baseball Team.
 Prior to joining the FDNY, he enlisted in the United States Coast Guard Reserve. His previous assignments include USCG Station Atlantic City, USCG Port Security Unit 305, and USCG Station New York. Eddie currently holds the rank of Boatswain's Mate First Class.

A graduate of St. Peter's Boys High School, Eddie was a member of the varsity baseball and swim team. He grew up on Staten Island playing travel baseball for the Robert Curatolo Rangers (a team that was created in memory of FF Robert Curatolo who gave his life on September 11, 2001). A lifelong pupil of Catholic education, Eddie values his Lasallian upbringing and his pride in being an Irish-Catholic-American. He resides in the Grymes Hill section of Staten Island.

Erin Crowley

Place of birth: Mt. Kisco.
Where do you live? Mahopac.
Current company and position? Putnam County Legislator District Representative, Congressman Mike Lawler.

First job and what it taught me? My first job was working in childcare, where I had an incredible opportunity to participate in the molding of young minds and the development of these individuals' senses of character. I would say that this job taught me the value of providing children with a solid foundation to prepare them for life's many challenges. Simply put, a quality education and a nurturing care environment constitute the bedrock of this preparation, and I am grateful that the work I did in my first job contributed to bettering the lives of so many bright young people.

How do you embrace your Irish heritage? I have embraced my Irish heritage primarily through paying close attention to the various stories of my family's Irish ancestry and passing these stories on to my own children. My family immigrated to the United



States from County Cork, though I am perhaps most intrigued by my family's connection to one of the most important symbols of Irish heritage in this country. My distant cousin James Crowley was one of the famous "Four Horsemen" of the University of Notre Dame during the early 20th century and went on to have a successful career in both the college and professional sports worlds. I feel extremely grateful to be related to such an amazing individual, whose proud representation of his Irish heritage serves as an example for all Irish-Americans to follow. Beyond keeping in touch with my family history, I also frequently attend Irish heritage festivals in my local community of Mahopac, New York, such as FEIS, a Gaelic arts festival that includes Irish dancing, music, and food. Furthermore, I am a new member of the Emerald Society and regularly attend their events. In short, I feel that I have a deep connection to my Irish heritage that features prominently in my daily life.

Something people would be surprised to know about me: One fact that people would find

surprising about me is that I have spontaneous, identical triplet boys. They are the pride and joy of my life, and I feel very blessed to get to nurture and guide them as they take the first steps of their educational and personal developmental journeys.

Erin Lee Crowley was a small business owner in Mahopac, where she resides with her husband, Kevin, her teenage son, Jordan, and identical triplets, Cooper, Hudson, and Jaxon. Additionally, she is the founder of the Hope Chest Sisters, a 5013c nonprofit organization that provides support and advocacy for domestic violence victims; she is a prominent community activist and organizer, whose Mask Maker's Guild distributed over 30,000 pieces of PPE to frontline workers during the early stages of the COVID-19 pandemic, when supplies were scarce. For those efforts, Erin was recognized as a "Hometown Hero" by NY State Senator Peter Harchkham. She is also a member of the Patterson Rotary, where she currently serves as the Vocational Chair.

Erin studied Criminal Justice in college, but ultimately chose to pursue a career in New York City's high-end beauty industry, where she worked as an educator, brand ambassador, and general manager of operations, among other titles. The valuable experience she gained, managing multi-million dollar budgets, large-scale procurement, and waste reduction serves her well as a member of the Putnam County Legislature, of which she is the youngest member ever elected.

As a citizen, Erin has pressed the Putnam County Legislature to expedite protracted contract negotiations and to improve an inadequate radio system for the county's Sheriff's Deputies and has challenged them to be more fiscally responsible, more transparent, and to eliminate frivolous spending. Additionally, she was named a "woman of distinction" by Congressman Michael V. Lawler (NY-17) prior to working for him as a district representative. Lastly, Erin is a strong advocate for veterans and is an auxiliary member for her local VFW Post 5491.

Emily Reid

Place of birth: Buffalo, NY.
Where do you live? Buffalo, NY.
Current company and position? Director of Operations and Special Projects for New York State Senator Timothy M. Kennedy.

First job and what it taught me? My first job was as a hostess at The Blackthorn Restaurant and Pub in South Buffalo. It taught me how to effectively communicate with customers and how to work together as a team with my colleagues and to always have patience and empathy.

How do you embrace your Irish heritage? Buffalo is home to one of the largest Irish diaspora communities in the country. The Irish helped build the Erie Canal and settled along the shores of Lake Erie in Buffalo. As a student of history, I find myself constantly researching and learning more about the impact the Irish have had on the City of Buffalo. As a benefit of my current job, I am able to help uplift and celebrate those stories in a meaningful way to ensure the wider community never forgets the impact of the Irish in Buffalo.

Emily Reid was born and raised in South Buffalo, NY to Mike and Louise Reid. The youngest of four siblings, Emily attended St. Martin of Tours grammar school and Mount Mercy Academy High School. Emily graduated from SUNY Buffalo with a Bachelor of Arts in both International Studies and American Studies, where she focused on immigration and refugee policy.

Following her undergraduate degree, Emily began her career at the International Institute of Buffalo as an International Exchanges and Education Coordinator, where, among other things, she hosted international delegations through the US



Department of State in Buffalo to create lasting professional connections. Within 4 years, Emily hosted visitors from 87 different countries. While working at the International Institute, Emily worked toward and received her Master of Arts Degree in American Studies, with a research focus on comparative immigration and refugee policy between the United States and Canada.

A few months after graduation, she joined Senator Timothy M. Kennedy's team as his scheduler, and worked her way up as his Director of Operations and Special Projects, as which she serves as the clerk of the Senate Subcommittee on State-Native American Relations, South Buffalo community liaison, and point person for all things Irish. Emily has coordinated visits to Buffalo by numerous Irish dignitaries, works on the annual St. Patrick's Day Luncheon at the Buffalo Irish Center, and is an Honorary Chair for the upcoming Irish Echo Heroes of Irish America event. Emily lives with her fiancé Jack and their cat Sonny in the suburbs of Buffalo.

Emily Jester

Place of birth: Baltimore, MD.

Where do you live? Baltimore, MD.

Current company and position? First grade teacher at Cardinal Shehan Catholic School.

First job and what it taught me? My first job was as a digital media manager for a small sign business in Virginia. It taught me about patience, the value of money, and that it's okay to make mistakes, as long as we learn from them!

How do you embrace your Irish heritage? I embrace my Irish heritage through my involvement with the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians, serving as my division's representative for Freedom For All Ireland, as well as my division's Irish historian. I am also the Maryland State LAOH's membership chairwoman. I volunteered as assistant to the Cultural Director at the 2023 Maryland State Irish

Festival, portrayed Saint Brigid in the 2023 Baltimore St. Patrick's Day Parade, and I share my heritage as an Irish dancer. I am thankful to have family living in Cavan, Ireland and I love going over to visit them and explore the beauty of Ireland! I was featured on Cavan Calling, a homecoming festival page for Cavan, Ireland's global diaspora.

I also co-hosted a 1916 Easter Rising Memorial at the Irish Railroad Workers Museum and have joined the Irish American Unity Conference to work for Irish freedom. Finally, I embraced my Irish heritage by receiving a Master of Arts in History with a focus on Irish and Irish-American History, having researched and written papers and articles on An Gorta Mór, Irish immigration, the Troubles, and Irish involvement and aid in numerous American battles throughout history.

Something people would be surprised to know about me: is that on the



weekends, when I'm not teaching first grade, I work as a Disney Princess for Royal Events and Entertainment!

Emily Jester is 24 years old and was born and raised in Baltimore, Maryland. She attended the Catholic High School of Baltimore and went on to receive a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Science and a Master of Arts in History with a focus on Irish and Irish-American History. She currently works as a first grade teacher at Cardinal Shehan Catholic School in Baltimore, where she proudly hangs an Irish flag and St. Brigid's cross behind her desk. Emily has always been interested in her Irish heritage. She joined the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians in 2021 and went on to become her division's representative for Freedom For All Ireland. She has since become her division's Irish historian, the Maryland state LAOH membership chairwoman, and St. Brigid in the Baltimore St. Patrick's Day Parade. She is honored to be selected as one of the 2024 Irish Echo's 40 Under 40 Honorees.

Brianne Mooney Galvin

Place of birth: New York.

Where do you live? New York City.

Current company and position? Hospital for Special Surgery, Advanced Clinician Acute Orthopedic Rehabilitation.

First job and what it taught me? From a young age my parents instilled in me a great work ethic, I held countless jobs and frequently more than one at a time throughout high school, through college, and graduate school. My resume is extensive starting at 13 years old, but one of my first jobs was volunteering at a special needs camp in Long Island called Camp ANCHOR, Answering the Needs of Citizens with Handicaps through Organized Recreation, in Lido Beach, NY. The summer and winters volunteering with adults and children with special needs shaped me from a young age, taught me patience, compassion, communication skills, professionalism and ultimately helped me choose a career dedicated to helping those in need.

How do you embrace your Irish heritage? As a young girl I was proud of my Irish-American Heritage, being born in March I frequently celebrated St. Patrick's Day alongside my birthday. I have a large Irish Catholic family on both sides who gather for all holidays and are close, as well as marrying into one so the family tree is quite extensive. I was lucky enough to attend my Irish family wedding, have frequent visits from cousins from Ireland, and keep Irish traditions alive- Irish soda bread, St. Bridget's cross in our apartment, St Patrick's day and the parade where my siblings and parents march, attending Emerald society functions, and family heavily involved in

the Irish American Society of Nassau, Suffolk, and Queens. My traditions are deeply rooted in my Irish heritage and the values are greatly affected by being raised in an Irish Catholic family.

Something people would be surprised to know about me: I am artistic.

Brianne Mooney Galvin is an Orthopedic Physical Therapist at the Hospital for Special Surgery in Manhattan. As an advanced clinician, she is responsible for pre-operative and post-operative care for her patients and has extensive experience in surgical and medical intensive care units. She co-led the hospitals rehabilitation department's efforts during the COVID-19 pandemic and spent countless hours in the hospital's intensive care unit. She is licensed to practice in New York and has extensive experience working with complex Orthopedic cases.

Earlier in her career, Brianne focused her efforts in pediatric care and early intervention. Prior to the Hospital for Special Surgery, Brianne gained valuable experience working at NYU Langone - Brooklyn. She has experience working in a variety of settings, including in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, medical intensive care units, and in private practice. Brianne earned her Doctorate in



Physical Therapy from the University of Scranton where she was able to study abroad in Limerick, Ireland at University of Limerick. During that time she extensively traveled all over Ireland and was able to connect to her extensive network of family. Prior to her graduate studies, she earned a Bachelor of Science in Exercise Science from the University. Outside of work, Brianne supports the Tunnels to Tower Foundation where she previously served on the Junior Advisory Board. Additionally, Brianne is a proud alumna and supporter of the Sacred Heart Academy in Hempstead, NY and Regis High School in Manhattan. She resides in Manhattan with her husband who is a graduate of

Regis High School, Tufts University and comes from an extensive Irish heritage.

Brianne is the proud daughter of two retired New York City Police Department parents, Brian and Mary Anne Mooney, and the sister of two current NYPD officers Detective Ryan Mooney and Sergeant Kaitlyn Mooney. Through her family she is connected to the NYPD Emerald Society, her sister serving as 2024 NYPD Emerald Society Treasurer. Her youngest sister Meaghan, also a graduate of the University of Scranton, is a Special Education teacher in Queens.

Ciara Brady

Place of birth: Crawley, West Sussex.

Where do you live? Gramercy, Manhattan.

Current company and position? Marketing, Fundraising and Events Assistant at Emerald Isle Immigration Center.

First job and what it taught me? I was a Sales Assistant at NEXT which is a fashion and homeware store. It was a fantastic learning environment - getting to know how to handle and prepare for the demands of the public in busy sales seasons (such as Christmas, Summer etc.) It instilled a great work ethic in me and I learnt the value of time management, how to work efficiently within a team and the importance of communicating well with others under pressure. It definitely taught me how to be comfortable with taking on new challenges and to step outside of my comfort zone. This has likely contributed

to my desire to travel and live abroad and seek out new personal and professional adventures.

How do you embrace your Irish heritage? I listen to Irish music and instruments and try to exchange conversations in Gaelic with my family in Ireland. I watch Irish sports and regularly attend Irish community events in NYC. It reminds me about the importance of community and that there is no place like home! When I miss the taste of Irish food (which is fairly frequent!), I'll attempt to make an Irish stew, or bake brown bread! No matter how hard I try though, it'll never be as good as my Mom's...

Something people would be surprised to know about me: When I was 18, I worked at a summer camp in the Rocky Mountains, Colorado. I taught riflery. Before arriving and engaging in 3 weeks of intense training, I had never picked up a rifle in my life. By the end of the training I was fully qualified to teach



children how to shoot targets, which is something I never thought I would say! I

couldn't have hoped for a better experience as I got to fully immerse in camp culture and try to make a difference to the lives of the children I worked with. I still receive emails from that summer in 2018!

Ciara Brady attended primary and secondary school in West Sussex. She studied Law with Politics at Queens University, Belfast and then completed her postgraduate Masters of Science summa cum laude at Imperial College London, in Innovation, Entrepreneurship and Management. Ciara has a keen interest in start-ups and venture capital and gained experience working at a bio-tech start-up and early stage fundraising advisory firm in London before moving to NYC. Since moving to NYC, Ciara has been working at Emerald Isle Immigration Center, developing the non-profit organization's fundraising and marketing strategies and increasing engagement with J-1 visa graduate holders.

Bill Dempsey

Place of birth: Scranton, PA.
Where do you live? Clarks Summit, PA.
Current company and position? Northeast Rehab, Executive Director of Program Development.
First job and what it taught me? I was a dishwasher at a local Italian restaurant at the age of 13. At a young age, I learned how to work hard and how to balance my schedule with work and other commitments.
How do you embrace your Irish heritage? I serve as the Treasurer and Executive Committee member of the Friendly Sons of St. Patrick of Lackawanna County. March is High Holy Season in the Scranton area kicking off with a Parade the Saturday before the 17th and on St. Patrick's Day with our



Friendly Sons of St. Patrick Annual Dinner. I also studied abroad for a semester in college at NUI Galway (Now Galway University). Lastly, I played and later coached rugby at the University of Scranton.
Something people would be surprised to know about me: I serve as Chairman of the Scranton Lions Club Annual Dream Game, which is the longest running high school football all-star game in the country as we plan our 90th game this year.

Bill Dempsey is a professional with a wide-ranging background. He serves as the Executive Director of Program Development at Northeast Rehab, where he focuses on driving growth in both services offered and revenue through data-based decision

making. In addition, he holds a position as Adjunct Faculty at Lackawanna College. Bill's dedication to community service is evident through his role as a board member in several organizations, including the American Heart Association, Greater Scranton YMCA, Abington Youth Basketball League, and Scranton Rugby Alumni Association. Additionally, he holds the position of Treasurer and is an Executive Committee Member of the Friendly Sons of St. Patrick of Lackawanna County. With professional achievements and an unwavering commitment to community service, Bill has made a significant impact in his various roles. His diverse talents and leadership roles in various organizations demonstrate his dedication to making a positive impact on his community.

Austin Behan

Place of birth: Newport, RI
Where do you live? Newport, RI.
Current company and position? CVS Health, Pharmacy Returns Manager.
First job and what it taught me? First job out of college was sales development for a start-up company, helped gain communication skills.
How do you embrace your Irish heritage? From the moment I was born I could see how important my heritage was to my family. My grandfather, my Uncles and Dad have all embraced their heritage and I try to continue to do the same with the Ancient Order of Hibernians.
Something people would be surprised to know about me: I come from a very large family, my dad is one of 12 children, and I'm one of 30 grandchildren.



Austin Behan is a Pharmacy Returns manager for the CVS Health Corporation, an American healthcare company, and is responsible for reducing waste and returns in pharmacies across the entire nation. Austin is also third-generation member and current Division Vice-President of the Ancient Order of Hibernians Dennis E Collins, Division 1 located in Newport, Rhode Island, the second largest AOH division in the United States. Austin has also served on the board of the Newport Rugby Club and is an active member of the club. Austin has continued to enthusiastically build upon his family's Hibernian legacy by serving as Secretary to the Rhode Island AOH State Board in addition to his role as the current division Vice President.

Daniel McCann

Place of birth: Somers Point, New Jersey.
Where do you live? Sea Isle City, New Jersey
Current company and position? Surety Title Company, LLC, General Counsel Law Office of Daniel J. McCann, LLC, President; Saint Joseph's University, Adjunct Professor.
First job and what it taught me? My first job was an ocean lifeguard for the Sea Isle City Beach Patrol. Being an ocean lifeguard instilled several valuable skills and experiences that are beneficial in my legal career. Three things I learned as an ocean lifeguard that contribute to my success as an attorney and small business owner:
Crisis Management and Decision-Making: As an ocean lifeguard, one must make quick decisions in high-pressure situations. This experience translates well into a legal career, where attorneys often face time-sensitive, complex issues. Lifeguards are trained to assess risks, make swift decisions, and take action, which can be crucial in legal settings when dealing with urgent client matters or during courtroom proceedings.
Effective Communication: Lifeguards need strong communication skills to interact with beachgoers, colleagues, and emergency services. This skill is essential in the legal field, where clear and persuasive communication is critical when presenting arguments in court, negotiating with opposing parties, or advising clients. The ability to articulate complex ideas concisely and effectively learned as a lifeguard greatly benefit my ability to convey legal concepts.
Calmness Under Pressure: Working as an ocean lifeguard requires maintaining composure during emergencies. This ability to stay calm and composed under pressure can be highly valuable in legal practice, especially during intense negotiations, cross-examinations, or when handling stressful legal matters. Remaining level-headed can help attorneys make sound judgments and provide better representation for their clients, even in challenging situations.
How do you embrace your Irish heritage? I embrace my Irish heritage by studying our history, celebrate our

traditions, connect with the Irish community, share stories of our family traditions, and display symbols of our Irish culture. I have read books, watch documentaries, and took courses to learn more about Irish history, literature, music, art, and folklore. This has deepened my appreciation for Irish culture. I participate in Irish traditions and celebrate St. Patrick's Day.

Our family cooks traditional Irish dishes, wear green, or attending cultural events in your community. Engaging in these festivities help me feel more connected to Irish customs and traditions. I enjoy traditional Irish music. I have taken lessons to play traditional Irish instruments like the fiddle. As a young boy I took Irish dance lessons and performed before large audiences. I learned some basic Irish phrases or the Irish Gaelic to further connect with my heritage. My favorite being baile mo chroí, which my grandmother named our family home.

In 2017, my family and I visited Ireland. Some of us competed in the Cork City Marathon. We explored historical sites, visit museums, experience traditional music sessions in pubs, and interact with locals. Being in Ireland provided a deeper understanding and appreciation for my heritage.

I have connected with older family members to learn more about our family's specific Irish heritage, stories, and traditions. My goal is to share these stories with our younger generations to help preserve and pass down the family's Irish legacy. Finally, our symbol of Irish culture, we proudly display our Irish Flag at our home.

Something people would be surprised to know about me: I ran a marathon on every continent.

Daniel J. McCann, Esq., is a law and real estate professional. He is a husband, father, and adventurer. Daniel has completed a marathon on all seven continents.

As the General Counsel of Surety Title Company, LLC, a title insurance and settlement services company, Daniel oversees many legal matters and provides strategic guidance to the senior management. With over 9 years of experience as a licensed NJ attorney, Daniel



has successfully handled complex and high-stakes transactions, litigation, and regulatory compliance issues for the company and its clients.

The Law Office of Daniel J. McCann, L.L.C., is a boutique law firm located in New Jersey. As President, Daniel oversees all client and business matters. The law firm handles a range of files for its clients.

In addition to his executive roles, Daniel is also an Adjunct Professor of Law & Economics at Saint Joseph's University, where he shares his knowledge and passion for the intersection of law, business, and policy with undergraduate and graduate students. He also serves as the Vice President of the Cape May County Bar Association, a non-profit organization that promotes diligence and civility in the practice of law, community involvement, and education. Through these roles, Daniel aims to contribute to the advancement of the legal profession and the public interest, while also pursuing his personal and professional growth.

Colleen Kelly

Place of birth: Boston, MA.

Where do you live? Quincy, MA.

Current company and position? Director of Corporate Marketing at Fenagh Engineering and Testing, a professional services firm providing special inspections, materials testing, and engineering for both private and public sector developments. I have been with the firm from the very beginning with the first office in Boston to a remarkable 12-offices nationwide since joining in 2017.

First job and what it taught me? My first job was working for my father's company, JBT Enterprises, as a Division 8 commercial field installer. This experience taught me the value of hard manual labor, provided a firsthand look at how a business is run, and most importantly exposed me to the opportunities available for women in the Architecture, Engineering, and Construction (AEC) space. This early exposure has had a lasting impact on my work ethic, understanding of business dynamics, and my commitment to promoting inclusivity and diversity in the construction industry.

How do you embrace your Irish heritage? I actively embrace my Irish heritage by engaging in community involvement, building meaningful business relationships rooted in shared cultural values, and actively participating in various cultural events. I take great pride celebrating the vibrant traditions that define my cultural identity in both my personal and professional life.

My commitment to fostering international connections is evident through my role on the board of directors for the Boston Irish Business Association, where I have served since 2019, participating in two successful trade missions that strengthened ties between Boston and Ireland both with business and local government.

Beyond the boardroom, my active involvement in the Young Executive Leadership Committee for the Ireland Funds of Boston and my pivotal role as a founding member of the Young Professionals Group at the Irish Cultural Center of Greater Boston underscore my dedication to both cultural and professional enrichment.

My leadership in the national corporate partnership between the USGAA and Fenagh Engineering and

Testing since 2021 has been particularly rewarding. Under my guidance, Fenagh has hosted over 15 students, providing them with comprehensive internship experiences in engineering and construction while immersing them in the rich cultural experience of playing Hurling, Football, and Camogie with the USGAA here in the United States.

Something people would be surprised to know about me is that I am an active member of the Boston Irish Dippers. We come together to plunge into the frigid waters of the Atlantic Ocean every Sunday from October through May, even in the coldest months. It's not just about the daring adventure; it's a vibrant community of individuals who find joy, camaraderie, and a sense of fun in the shared experience of cold-water swimming. It's an unconventional way I embrace both challenge and connection, making a splash in more ways than one.

In the role of Director of Corporate Marketing at Fenagh Engineering and Testing, Colleen Kelly has been instrumental in the company's expansion from its initial Boston office to an impressive 12-office nationwide presence since joining in 2017. Alongside corporate responsibilities, Colleen has actively contributed to fostering international connections, serving on the board of directors for the Boston Irish Business Association since 2019.

Beyond the boardroom, Colleen has made significant contributions to the Young Executive Leadership Committee for the Ireland Funds of Boston and served as a founding member of the Young Professionals Group at the Irish Cultural Center of Greater Boston. She has been a leader in the national corporate partnership between the USGAA and Fenagh Engineering and Testing since 2021 and has facilitated comprehensive internship experiences for over 15 students in engineering and construction, coupled with immersion in the cultural experience of playing Hurling, Football, and Camogie with the USGAA in America.

Colleen's diverse career journey encompasses roles on the One Dalton Four Seasons Tower, NEMA Boston Tower with Crescent Heights Development, Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices, and collaboration with ProjectMark, an Irish-founded AEC industry-specific CRM and digital proposal/marketing software startup.



In a noteworthy development, Colleen and team are set to open a Dublin operation in Q1 2024, marking a significant milestone for Fenagh Engineering and Testing's global expansion. This accomplishment underscores Colleen's strategic foresight and leadership in advancing the company's reach.

Colleen's personal connection to Ireland, a notable influence has been her Aunt Roseanne. Departing America after a successful career in Boston, her Aunt ventured to Ireland. There, she opened a bed and breakfast on Fisher Street in Doolin, Co. Clare. It is through her Aunt Roseanne's legacy that Colleen has cultivated an enduring enthusiasm and love for Ireland, a place that has become a part of her heart. Her Aunt Roseanne's grand adventure and the strong connection to Ireland she forged for the Kelly family has been an inspiration. The love for Ireland and the enthusiasm Colleen holds for the country can be directly attributed to her Aunt Roseanne's journey.

Peter Boland

Place of birth: Saint Petersburg, FL.

Where do you live? Saint Petersburg, FL.

Current company and position? - Publican at Mary Margaret's Olde Irish Tavern in Downtown St Pete; -Proprietor The Galley: A St Pete Tavern in Downtown St. Pete; -President PMB Events; - Executive Producer Paddy Fest St Pete.

First job and what it taught me? My first job was working with my parents at their store, B&N Markert stocking shelves and working the register here in our neighborhood in St Pete. My dad taught me all the little things: keeping it clean, learning people's names, facing the products, arriving early and opening on time. He taught me how to treat customers and how to treat employees.

How do you embrace your Irish heritage? As a proud Irish American, my Irish roots have always been on display in all walks of my life. From the gift of gab, to the friendly nature and classic temper, it's always been an abundant part of my personality. After working in Irish Pubs for many years, I finally was able to open my own Irish Pub and really made an emphasis on authenticity, Irish history, food, drink, music and culture.

Since our opening in 2020, I have joined the Ancient Order of Hibernians and in 2023 began Paddy Fest St Pete, one of Florida's Biggest St. Patrick's Day celebrations.

Something people would be surprised to know about me: Two things: I like to sing Karaoke and have really picked up

some country tunes lately. And secondly, I love old school pro-wrestling, it connects me with my brothers and brings fond memories from my childhood. And it makes me laugh (it's all meant for fun!).

Pete Boland was born & raised in the Shore Acres area of St. Pete where he grew up working the register and stocking the shelves alongside his brothers at his mom & dad's neighborhood store. His parents also served on the board & volunteered for many years at Northeast Little League. Working for his parents at the family owned business and with them in their community service instilled a strong work ethic and sense of civic pride into Pete.

He later attended Southside Fundamental Middle in Midtown during the tense times of the 96 Riots, and is a 2002 graduate of St. Pete High, where he proudly lettered on the school wrestling team. When his parents divorced and his father stricken with illness, Pete was a troubled teen that fought through adversity to make ends meet working two jobs living on his own in St. Pete at age 17 in order to finish high school.

After High School, he moved to Marion County to be with his ailing Dad, pursuing a degree in Mass Communications at College of Central Florida, all the while still working in Customer Service. While a student, Pete fell in love with the Hospitality Business & he began bartending at the tender age of 19, before beginning a long career in management as an Assistant General Manager at 21. In 2008, Pete returned home to St. Pete,

riding the PSTA Bus to classes at St. Petersburg College and continuing to work in hospitality, and once again as a volunteer youth baseball umpire. Further focusing on his career, he attended culinary school at the Art Institute of Tampa and served as the longtime manager at popular bars and restaurants in Tampa Bay plying his craft.

Pete co-founded and opened The Galley: A St. Pete Tavern in 2016 on a "cursed" block in Downtown St. Pete. The Galley was an immediate success creating dozens of jobs while also becoming a community gathering place. The Galley's success spawned an expansion with The Ship's Hold cocktail bar in 2019, and a sister restaurant named for his grandma, Mary Margaret's Olde Irish Tavern, in 2020.

Battling thru challenging events like Hurricane Irma & Covid 19, The Galley & Mary Margaret's have become staples in the downtown business community & helped to lead the way in the fight against the virus while feeding thousands in the community. Neither The Galley or Mary Margaret's laid off a single employee during the Covid Lockdowns. This led to Peter's foray into public service and an unsuccessful bid for Mayor of St. Petersburg in 2021.

In 2022, Pete with his partners founded PMB events LLC, which brought Tampa Bay's largest ever World Cup Watch Parties to life during the 2022 World Cup. Subsequently, the group created and hosted Paddy Fest St Pete, the city's largest ever St Patrick's Day celebration. As a passionate advocate for the city and



outspoken business leader, Pete is proud to call St. Pete his forever home and resides again in Shore Acres with his loving fiancé Jessica and her 3 children—just one block from where he attended pre-school at LCC and stocked shelves at his parent's store. Pete & Jessica are also members of the St. Raphael's Parish in Snell Isle, the same church Pete was baptized at as a child.

Pete continues to work to improve the lives us his family, his business, his employees, and his community at large with a deep passion for all things he touches, demonstrating some of the best traits from a proud Irish heritage.

Kaitlyn Davis

Place of birth: Pittsburgh, PA, USA.

Where do you live? Flagstaff, AZ, USA.

Current company and position? Kaitlyn joined the faculty at Northern Arizona University (NAU) as an Assistant Professor of Anthropology in 2023. In addition to her full-time job at NAU, she works part-time as a Senior Archaeologist at Chronicle Heritage and as an Online Instructor in the Continuing Education Program at the University of Colorado.

First job and what it taught me? Kaitlyn worked as a camp counselor for Girl Scouts Western Pennsylvania (GSWPA) during high school and her first year of college. The leadership, teambuilding, and outdoor education skills that she gained through this experience are ones that have continued to be useful for her as she directs archaeological field projects and instructs students on those projects, often in rural, backcountry settings.

How do you embrace your Irish heritage? Kaitlyn embraces her Irish heritage through her work as an archaeologist, volunteer activities, and musical hobby. While her recent archaeological projects have been in the American Southwest, she previously worked on archaeological projects related to Irish American immigrant history in

Michigan and Indiana and Irish emigrant history in County Connemara. She also studied Irish archaeology and geology at University College Dublin. Kaitlyn is a member of the Denver Division of the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians (LAOH) and has volunteered her time to various LAOH Division initiatives that preserve and share Irish heritage, including the annual Celtic trivia fundraiser, the "1/2 Way to St. Patrick's Day" walk/run fundraiser, and Catholic fellowship events. She is a member of the Flagstaff Community Band and continues to play Celtic and Irish music on her flute.

Something people would be surprised to know about me: I was a member of the backing band for the High Kings' 2012 performance of "The Parting Glass" at the O2 Arena (now "3Arena") in Dublin.

Dr. Kaitlyn Davis is an Assistant Professor of Anthropology at Northern Arizona University (NAU), where she directs the Environmental Archaeology Lab and helps prepare students for careers in cultural resource management, public lands stewardship, and academic archaeology. As a community archaeologist, Kaitlyn strives to have her research be guided by and for



the benefit of the communities with whom she works.

One of her current projects is a national effort to better understand and mitigate the impact of climate changes and climate stressors on cultural landscapes and archaeological resources. In addition to her full-time job at NAU, she

works part-time as a Senior Archaeologist at Chronicle Heritage and as an Online Instructor in the Continuing Education Program at the University of Colorado.

She earned her bachelor's degree in Anthropology and Environmental Science at the University of Notre Dame, completing part of her coursework for that degree at University College Dublin. She earned her master's and doctoral degrees in Anthropology-Archaeology at the University of Colorado.

Kaitlyn is an active member of the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians (LAOH). She has helped with initiatives for her home membership division (Denver) and the Young Hibernian Committee. She assists with fundraising efforts to support LAOH charities and recently worked on a volunteer team to secure a preservation grant of \$250,000.00 for structural and safety repairs to a historical church and community center in Denver which was granted. This church and community center's mission involves serving immigrant and in-need families and individuals.

In her free time, Kaitlyn enjoys hiking, mountain biking, fly fishing, snowboarding, restoring classic cars and trucks, and playing flute in the Flagstaff Community Band.

Dan FitzPatrick

Place of birth: Allentown, PA.

Where do you live? Nanuet, NY.

Current company and position? Orange and Rockland Utilities, Inc. Section Manager, E-Mobility - Electric Vehicle Infrastructure.

First job and what it taught me? Ice Cream Scooper. It taught me how to work in a fast-paced environment, deal with different kinds of customers, and handle money. It also taught me the importance and value of teamwork.

How do you embrace your Irish heritage? I am proud of my Irish heritage and I embrace it in many ways. I continue to learn about the traditions and values of Ireland and I celebrate them every day. I am a part of the Coned Emerald Society which promotes Irish culture and supports charitable causes. I honor my Irish roots and I share them with others.

Something people would be surprised to know about me: I have always been fascinated by the universe and its mysteries. I often spend summer nights gazing at the stars and wondering about their origins, their destinies, and their influence on our lives. I believe that the universe is not just a collection of objects and forces, but a living entity that communicates with us in subtle and profound ways.

Daniel FitzPatrick, the Section Manager of the Electric Vehicle Programs at Orange and Rockland Utilities, Inc. (O&R), has a remarkable career spanning over 17 years at O&R, Dan's journey from an intern in Electric Operations to his current role exemplifies his unwavering commitment to excellence.

Dan was raised in Middletown, New York, as the 3rd of 4 children. His parents, Robert and Karen FitzPatrick, are both of Irish descent and have always encouraged him to embrace his heritage and culture. Dan grew up in a supportive family that valued hard work, education, and community service. He credits his parents for instilling the value of hardwork. Dan is happily married to Doug Mason and resides in Nanuet, NY. His hobbies include biking, traveling and soccer.

Dan's tenure in Gas Operations, marked by his



multifaceted contributions, included a significant role overseeing the company's damage prevention efforts across the entire territory. Under his guidance, resources for major projects were efficiently allocated, and his focus on educating excavators on safe digging practices reduced the risk of fire or explosion. A testament to his leadership, Dan fostered a zero-harm safety culture and promoted the imperative "Call Before You Dig (811)" message to the excavating community and the public, ensuring community safety.

In his current capacity, Dan manages a dynamic team and provides invaluable oversight for several best-in-class electric vehicle initiatives and projects. These initiatives align with the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act while advancing O&R's clean energy vision. His dedication extends to staying informed about local and national EV implementation strategies, ensuring the

group's efficiency in achieving its goals.

Dan's influence is not confined to the organization; he actively engages with regulatory commissions, issuing statements, recommendations, rulings, and stakeholder comments. This commitment positions him as a respected leader in the field, representing O&R as an industry frontrunner.

Dan's educational background is equally impressive, with a Bachelor of Science (BS) in Business Administration from St. Thomas Aquinas College in 2006 and a Master of Business Administration (MBA) with a Management concentration from Iona College in 2018.

Professionally, Dan has held significant roles on the Board of Directors of UDIG NY, as Secretary, and as Treasurer for the Hudson Valley Damage Prevention Council. His career is punctuated by active involvement in various local and national committees. Presently, Dan is a prominent member of the company's Emerald Society, promoting Irish heritage within O&R. He also serves as a Board Member for the Company's LGBTQ+ employee resource group, playing an integral role in organizing events and presentations.

As part of the Business Ethics Council, Dan has contributed to creating an environment that encourages open and honest communication, fostering diversity and inclusion.

Dan's exemplary leadership in the industry is well-acknowledged through accolades such as the Golden Spade award from UDIG NY, YOURBest awards from O&R, and invitations to speak at national industry conferences. His extraordinary contributions have been recognized with the Partner in Damage Prevention award, Dig Safely NY's highest honor.

Beyond his professional accolades, Dan has authored articles for industry trade publications and actively volunteers to educate communities on clean energy policies. His dedication extends to volunteering for the Hudson Valley Food Bank, supporting Hudson Valley Pride, and his involvement in local Rotary and Rotaract Clubs.

In both his personal and professional life, Dan embodies Irish heritage, demonstrating leadership, dedication, and unwavering commitment to excellence.



HEROES OF IRISH AMERICA AWARDS

Friday 26 April 2024
Buffalo Convention Center, Buffalo, NY
6:00pm-10:00pm
After-Party: Banshee Bar with Crikwater

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