

IRISH UNDER
4040

IN ASSOCIATION WITH

Qarik

15th Annual Awards

Friday 25th February 2022

Manhattan Manor, 201 W 52nd Street,
New York, NY

Guest of Honor: Dr Anne Donnelly,
District Attorney, Nassau County

Introducing our forty 2022 honorees

 <p>Lauren Stafford New York</p>	 <p>Kerri McGinley New York</p>	 <p>Sarah Costello Florida</p>	 <p>Scott Partika Ohio</p>
 <p>Kieran Mitchell New York</p>	 <p>Cillian Flavin Delmar, NY</p>	 <p>Mark Desmond New York</p>	 <p>Katie Kokolus Buffalo</p>
 <p>Sean O'Keefe New York</p>	 <p>Jennifer Muldowney NYC</p>	 <p>Jessica Foster Ohio</p>	 <p>Nick Smyth Pittsburgh, PA</p>
 <p>Sarah Cullivan New York</p>	 <p>Catherine Kavanagh New York</p>	 <p>Rory McGloin Colchester, CT</p>	 <p>Matthew Ellis New York</p>
 <p>Connor Coughlin New York</p>	 <p>Michael Lawler New York</p>	 <p>Siobhán Keane-Revie New York</p>	 <p>Devlin Robinson Pittsburgh, PA</p>
 <p>James (JJ) Hester Delaware</p>	 <p>Michael O'Brien Pennsylvania</p>	 <p>Clayton McGhan Hawaii</p>	 <p>Peter Fahy New York</p>
 <p>Darcy Young Massachusetts</p>	 <p>Colleen O'Riordan Pennsylvania</p>	 <p>Kaitlyn Frega New Jersey</p>	 <p>Ciara Schenk New York</p>
 <p>Kate Ward Pennsylvania</p>	 <p>Owen Ring New York</p>	 <p>Gwen Camp Philadelphia, PA</p>	 <p>Siobhán Kinealy New Jersey</p>
 <p>Grace Tallon New York</p>	 <p>Andy Collins New York</p>	 <p>Terence Cullen New York</p>	 <p>Erin O'Brian Houston Philadelphia, PA</p>
 <p>Brian Reilly New York</p>	 <p>Chris Keeley New York</p>	 <p>Daniel Roche New York</p>	 <p>Patrick Collins New Jersey</p>

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DA Donnelly to Speak at 40 Under 40

By Ray O'Hanlon

A feature of the 40 Under 40 Awards over the years - and there are now fifteen of those - has been an array of excellent speakers

This year is certainly no exception.

The 2022 awards gathering at Rosie O'Grady's in Manhattan will be addressed by Nassau County District Attorney Anne Donnelly.

Hers is certain to be an arresting oration.

Donnelly, according to her official profile, has spent her entire professional career following her passion, working as a prosecutor in the Nassau County District Attorney's Office. Serving the public under three District Attorneys, Donnelly was entrusted with positions of significant responsibility throughout the course of her 32 years as an Assistant District Attorney.

Her profile continues: "Elected to the position of Nassau's top law enforcement officer in 2021, Donnelly's priorities for the office include keeping the residents of Nassau County safe, making sure that dangerous individuals are

put behind bars, and providing resources for individuals who need support and assistance. In addition, Donnelly is committed to restoring morale and standing firmly with the staff of the District Attorney's Office, as well as members of the law enforcement community who work hand-in-hand with prosecutors.

"Most recently, Donnelly was the Deputy Bureau Chief of the Organized Crime & Rackets Bureau. In that capacity she was charged with prosecuting long-term investigations into traditional Organized Crime families, as well as large-scale operations engaging in illegal activities, including money laundering. Donnelly was also in charge of overseeing the prosecution of all computer crimes in the office and served as liaison to the Nassau County Correctional Center.

"Prior to her promotion to Deputy Chief in the Organized Crime & Rackets Bureau, Donnelly served as the Deputy Chief of the Economic Crimes Bureau where she was charged with supervising and prosecuting crimes ranging from identity theft to tax fraud, and previously



Nassau County District Attorney Anne Donnelly.

spent more than 12 years prosecuting violent felonies.

"Focused on keeping communities safe, Donnelly has been involved in the investigation and successful prosecution of complex murder cases and other prosecutions involving dangerous criminals. Over the course of her career, Donnelly has prosecuted a criminal case involving the sale and distribution of counterfeit electronics, which resulted in the largest asset forfeiture collection in the history of Nassau County; worked with federal

prosecutors to successfully convict a physician who filmed and forcibly touched patients; and worked on a Long Beach drug wiretap case, which resulted in the conviction of seven individuals.

"Donnelly is committed to lobbying for substantial changes to New York's broken bail laws, increasing resources in the area of technology and internet crimes, furnishing more assistance for at risk individuals, supporting office staff and law enforcement officers during increasingly difficult times, and providing education and positive alternatives for young people."

Donnelly is a graduate of Fordham University and Fordham Law School. She resides in Garden City with her family.

But on Friday evening Donnelly will be speaking to this year's class of the Echo's 40 Under 40 school, an array of people under that standout age that have given of their talent to society in a range of career fields including, of course, the practice of law in all its forms.

It promises to be a captivating evening.

THIS YEAR'S HONOREES

Darcy Young

Where you live: Palmer, MA.

Place of Birth: Springfield, MA.

Age: 30.

Family: Mike, husband & Delaney, daughter (5 months old).

First Job: Production Assistant/Field Producer/Assignment Desk Editor.

What it taught me: My first job in TV News production taught me the value of storytelling in a digital context. As I learned at my university, effective communication has at its core, a foundation in storytelling. Yet, in the digital age and with the fast pace of TV news, I learned the do-or-die nature of digital storytelling. Now my career is really focused on helping others to tell their stories in a digital world too.

Current Company and position: Director of Digital Public Relations, Garvey Communication Associates, Inc. and Video Producer at New England Corporate Video.

Best advice you could give someone starting out: Here are my tips: 1.) Do everything you can to gain experience in your desired field through internships, volunteerism, and job shadowing. 2.) Take your passion and turn it into an impressive project and something you're really proud of. 3.) Network and reach out to people who are in the position you

would like to be in. At times, it may feel uncomfortable to put yourself out there but from that experience, you really grow and develop professionally.

How do you embrace your Irish Heritage? Through service to my Irish community. As a former Colleen (Local Irish Community Service Award), I'm very proud of my Irish heritage. I currently serve as Communications Chair for the Springfield St. Patrick's Parade Committee and I have served on the board and many of the sub-committees. I'm also a member of the John Boyle O'Reilly Club. The Springfield St. Patrick's Parade Committee promotes and celebrates Irish heritage in Western MA by enriching experiences for its members, yearly honorees, including scholarships for students. One of my favorite volunteer efforts for them is chaperoning the Colleen and her Court every year as we travel to a variety of public presentations to share our Irish Heritage.

Something that people would be surprised to know about me .. My husband surprised me with a proposal at work on St. Patrick's Day and we were married one year later on the High Holiday.



Darcy Young is Director of Digital Public Relations at Garvey Communication Associates, Inc. and a Video Producer at New England Corporate Video.

Darcy knows a good story and, better yet for her clients, she is experienced at telling them. Storytelling is a skill that she has worked on for the greater part of her life. She started out early producing news packages for her university's student-run news broadcast. Those skills gained her positions as a production assistant, field

producer, and assignment desk editor for ABC and Fox news affiliates. In her spare time, she produces video content for her local community access television station.

At GCAi, she heads up the Digital PR department, working with her colleagues to develop engaging content for targeted media and audiences through strategic public relations and digital marketing campaigns. At NECV she plans, produces, and edits video content. GCAi and NECV work with corporate clients in many different industries from automotive to financial services.

A cum laude graduate of Westfield State University, Darcy earned a Bachelor of Arts in communication with a concentration in journalism. She serves on the executive committee and board of directors for the Children's Study Home. She also serves as chairperson for their community relations committee. She is a proud member of the New England Financial Marketing Association and Women in Film and Video of New England.

Darcy is a former Colleen (Local Irish Community Service Award) and serves as Communications Chair for the Springfield St. Patrick's Parade Committee. She has served on the board and many of the sub-committees. She is also a member of the John Boyle O'Reilly Club.

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Congratulates Irish 40 Under 40 Awardees

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Mindset is key to competing

By Peter McDermott
pmcdermott@irishecho.com



Gavan Corr is managing partner of Qarik Group.

"Belfast has a certain swagger."

That's the view of Ballyhegan, Co. Armagh, native Gavan Corr, the managing partner of Qarik Group in New York.

The past Irish Echo 40 Under 40 honoree extols its strengths as a location for business, but he also says that its young people do extremely well when they travel to work overseas.

The two phenomena have the same basic explanation: Queen's University and other institutions of higher learning.

"The fundamental education system is first class, and the quality of the graduates is first class," Corr said. "And there is a work ethic and a determination to succeed."

"You could see even in Silicon Valley the quality of the graduates coming out of Queen's and Jordanstown [University of Ulster, where he did a postgraduate degree at the Ulster Business School] were absolutely more than able to hold their own with your Stanfords and your MITs," said Corr, who worked in the financial technology sector in Vienna, Stockholm, Frankfurt, Paris, Hamburg, Palo Alto, Calif., and London before moving to New York, where he's been since 2003.

"It's a mindset," he said.

"The attitude that 'we can do anything' blossomed, and the culture changed massively from the mid-to-late '90s forward," he said, adding that factors like the peace dividend and European Union money were a big help.

The influence of the late Brian Conlon, the founder of First Derivatives, is central to the story, he believes

"Brian was the first guy that really pushed Northern Ireland, and Newry in particular, as a place that you could go out from and compete globally," Corr told the Irish News in 2020.

Last week, he added, "Brian had worked in London with J.P. Morgan and was doing some software development and he said 'I can do this better from home. I can find the people coming out of Queen's.' The caliber was stronger than the people he was seeing in London.

"He found some smart people and he found me as well," said Corr, who managed the company's Morgan Stanley, JPMC and Bank of America accounts.

Being straight out of college and in at the "deep end" in a city like Vienna, in his own case, was part of the process that "gave us the belief that we could compete with anybody."

He cited, too, the active roles taken by politicians like Peter Robinson, the late Martin McGuinness and Arlene Foster in bringing in business, including from companies he's been involved with, such as NYSE Euronext

officer at PEAK6] admits to being 'so hugely impressed' with what she found that she immediately convinced her company to establish a center of excellence in the city, which is creating 160 jobs paying an average salary around the £50,000 mark."

Access to the First Minister and Deputy First Minister and the ease with which visiting business people can get meetings with the right people, like the economy minister, are big pluses. "You can't get lost there," Corr said.

In the U.S., the different size and scale mean there are other forces and advantages at play. Being involved with the Irish-American network — which, he said, "has always been personally very supportive to me" — might lead to meeting someone who works for the world's biggest bank, for instance.

"A warm introduction can go an awful long way here," he said.

Asked about favorite places of those he worked in during the first years of his career, Corr listed two: London, working in finance there was a "really interesting experience" in the late 1990s; and Stockholm, a "phenomenal city," he said, and recommends Sweden as a place to visit to anyone who might get the opportunity.

Corr said it's important to be aware of differences in culture, and suggested that being from a divided society might even be an asset for the young executive moving from one business environment to another.

"Growing up at home you were always aware of cultural differences, in some ways a 'them and us,'" he said. "And that probably helps you when you go to work in a place where you're not aware of the culture. Because you're somewhat culturally sensitive inherently. I think that helps people adjust."

Austria, he recalled by way of example, has a "rigid" culture. "In banking the concept of 'four eyes,' always oversight of things. Germany and Austria have that policy; everything is checked by someone else the whole way through the process. As a result they're very conservative. In finance, they like the fundamentals. They like doing the things that are low risk and they are always very risk aware. Switzerland is something similar.

"They're risk aware here [in New York], but they're much more willing to embrace something new or different or change in a way that some of the older cultures in Europe don't," he said.

The most fascinating cultural difference for him, though, is that between the East Coast and the West Coast in the U.S.

Said Corr, who before setting up Qarik with his business partner Joe Schenk worked for two and half years as Principal of Financial Services at Google Cloud Platform, "From a

mindset difference. Google culturally is very new. There's a thing in Google 'fail often and fail fast.' It's a badge of honor to try multiple things that don't work because you learn a lot from those experiences. And the thought process in Google always emphasizes the idea of 10x. Whatever you're doing should be 10 times better than what's there or have the possibility to be. That encourages innovation and new ways at looking at things.

"In a very regulated world of Wall Street you can't take on those changes. You have so much regulation, so much oversight and compliance in a way that's not an issue for Google or Amazon or Microsoft."

So, there is "always a cultural battle somewhat between the business of banking and the capability of the technologies," he said.

"Here on the East Coast, it's about getting something right and making sure that it works. You wouldn't take on 10 projects and expect one of them to work; you would take on five and expect all five of them to work. Whereas on the West Coast you take on 10 and if one works, you're brilliant."

As for the future, and people's anxieties about where Big Tech is taking us, he said: "The technology itself is never the problem. We've always innovated as a species. There's always been an improvement. There have always been bad actors.

"The rate at which technology is accelerating right now is breathtaking, the amount of data we generate and capture is huge. And sometimes the social media can be an echo chamber for that," said Corr, who lives in New Jersey with his wife Aveen and their sons Matthew, 15, and Dara, 13, and daughter Maeve, 11.

"We evolved to deal with small villages, and we knew 100 people tops," he said, "and now we're in this situation where people have millions of followers.

"Now we have companies choosing what you hear and don't hear and it's usually to congratulate you on your opinion and that's not a good situation. We haven't got the hang of social media, yet, for our own well being," said the fan of the Armagh Gaelic football team and Liverpool F.C.

"We are getting better, I think, at privacy. Google and Apple over the last couple of weeks are taking good steps in that direction. People, I think, will crave more privacy. People will hopefully start looking for more than one opinion or one source for their news. And hopefully people will realize that they shouldn't make a very public statement about things they aren't qualified to. But that's all a while off.

"There's enough data and computing power available [and] we should be doing things that actually advance humanity," Corr said. "And right now, we're not doing a good job at that."

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Kerri McGinley

Where you live: Pearl River, NY.
Place of Birth: County Tyrone, Ireland.
Age: 36
Family: I have been married to my husband Ronan for over 12 years, and we have a two year old boy Tomas. I am fourth in a family of six children, Julie, Shauna, Shane, Laura, and Emmett. My father is Des, and my mother is Geraldine. My father and two bothers own a well-established civil engineering firm in Omagh County Tyrone.
First Job: Part-time Waitress.
What it taught me: Working evenings and weekends from the age of 14 was not always easy or fun, but it taught me the importance of hard work and the value of independence, by being able to make my own money.
Current Company and position: Partner and Chief Financial Officer at Coyle Contracting Corp. We are a MWBE certified General Contractor in NYC and recently celebrated 10 years in business. We mainly focus on interior fit out projects and have a well-established base

of clients who come to us, based on our experience and quality work.
Best advice you could give someone starting out: If you are willing to work hard, you will get your reward, as nothing in life worth having comes for free. Also be open to learn from others no matter your experience, as they say "Every day is a school day".
How do you embrace your Irish Heritage? Moving to New York without any family here, meant that we relied heavily on the New York GAA community to create a sense of home away from home. I have met so many people through the GAA community and some of my best friends have come from it. I play Camogie for Annie Moore's New York and have travelled to play camogie in the North American Championships in Seattle, Boston, Chicago, and Philadelphia. I am also proud to have represented New York playing Camogie at the World Games, at home in Ireland. I play Gaelic Football for Manhattan Gaels Ladies team, and represented the club as part of the first ever New York Scor competition.
 I also have coached a number of GAA



youth teams here in New York and it's great to see young Irish Americans actively participating in their Irish heritage.

Something that people would be surprised to know about me:

1. I am a very superstitious person - "Go out the door, you come in" and all that.

2. I got to meet President Bill Clinton when he visited Omagh in 1998.
 3. I am a big Tom Brady fan.

Kerri hails from the small village of Mountfield, a few miles outside of Omagh in County Tyrone. She grew up on the family farm, and spent her early life competing in Showjumping competitions throughout Ireland, and the UK. Kerri played Gaelic Football for her local club of Killyclogher St. Mary's, and for her school, Drumagh Integrated College.

After her studies Kerri worked for her family's company - McFadden Civils.

Kerri moved to New York in January 2011 with her husband Ronan, and joined Coyle in 2013. Coyle Contracting was founded by Tipperary and Kerry natives, Colm and Aishling Morrissey, and Kerri felt at home with their family orientated company and has been with them since joining. Kerri is now Coyle's Chief Financial Officer and a partner in the company.

As well as playing Camogie and Gaelic Football, Kerri also ran the NYC Marathon in 2014, for the New York "Team for Kids" Charity.

Kaitlyn Frega

Where you live: Hoboken, NJ.
Place of Birth: Suffern, NY.
Age: 28.
Family: I'm the oldest daughter of Jamie and Robert McGrath, and granddaughter to Eugene and Helen McGrath, as well as Carole Gaughran. I have two younger brothers, Ryan and Christopher. My husband Jon and I were married in 2019 and live in Hoboken, NJ with our dog, Libbi.
First Job: Working at an ice cream shop at 14.
What it taught me: My first job taught me both patience, and the importance of customer service. Valuing customers/clients is crucial for the success of any business. Learning to work with people at such a young age helped me to develop interpersonal skills that I've carried with me through all my subsequent jobs.
Current Company and position: Project Manager and Lead Regulatory Specialist at McLaren Engineering Group.
Best advice you could give someone starting out: Take advantage of any opportunity to improve your skills and learn something new. Ask questions of experienced people in your field. Jump at the chance to try something out of your comfort zone – staying comfortable, is



staying static. Attend any seminars that might interest you. If you have the opportunity to take additional classes – both within and outside your chosen field – take them. Each new opportunity to learn can build valuable connections and teach you unique skills that will help expand your interests and open doors.

How do you embrace your Irish Heritage? Growing up as an Irish American, has always meant honoring the legacy of our Irish heritage. I've had the privilege of speaking with my grandparents and great grandparents about my Irish heritage and their

experiences as Irish Americans. I've learned about my ancestors' struggles with leaving their homes, family members, and lives in Ireland with the hopes of building a better future for themselves in America. My great-great grandparents came to the United States believing that through hard work and earning an education they could build a better future for our family. I embrace my Irish heritage by continuing the legacy of my ancestors and building upon the foundation they helped create. I take every opportunity to advance my education and am always looking to learn something new. I believe in the value of hard work and put my heart into everything I do. Throughout my life and career, I aspire to honor my family's legacy and the sacrifices they made. I hope to continue making the world a better place, by innovating in the field of environmental engineering to build a more sustainable future.

Something that people would be surprised to know about me:

At 10 years old I rang the bell on the New York Stock Exchange and I raised the New Year's Eve Waterford Ball in Times Square. Also, my husband and I set a goal to travel to all 50 states together and in the last 6 years we've traveled to 32 states so far!

Kaitlyn has a passion for the environment that has steered her towards sustainable and resilient

design. Kaitlyn's interest in environmental conservation began in high school when she had the opportunity to intern with a program through Columbia's Lamont Doherty Earth Observatory, studying marsh habitat and its value to our ecosystem. Kaitlyn went on to attend Villanova University, where she double majored in Environmental Science and Geography and earned a minor in Sustainability. Kaitlyn began working for McLaren Engineering Group after graduation, while continuing her academic education and being assigned progressively responsible positions in the company. She began as an engineering technician, working to obtain regulatory approvals for marine infrastructure. Kaitlyn also began taking courses part time, while working full time, to obtain her Masters. Kaitlyn graduated in May of 2021 from Johns Hopkins with a Master's Degree in Environmental Engineering and Science. She now serves as a Project Manager in McLaren's Marine Division, working on the design and permitting of public parks, marinas, shoreline stabilization, piers, platforms and offshore wind development. Kaitlyn is also a Certified Floodplain Manager, specializing in flood zone regulation compliance, and is certified in WEDG and Envision sustainability frameworks, which aim to encourage more sustainable, resilient, and accessible development.

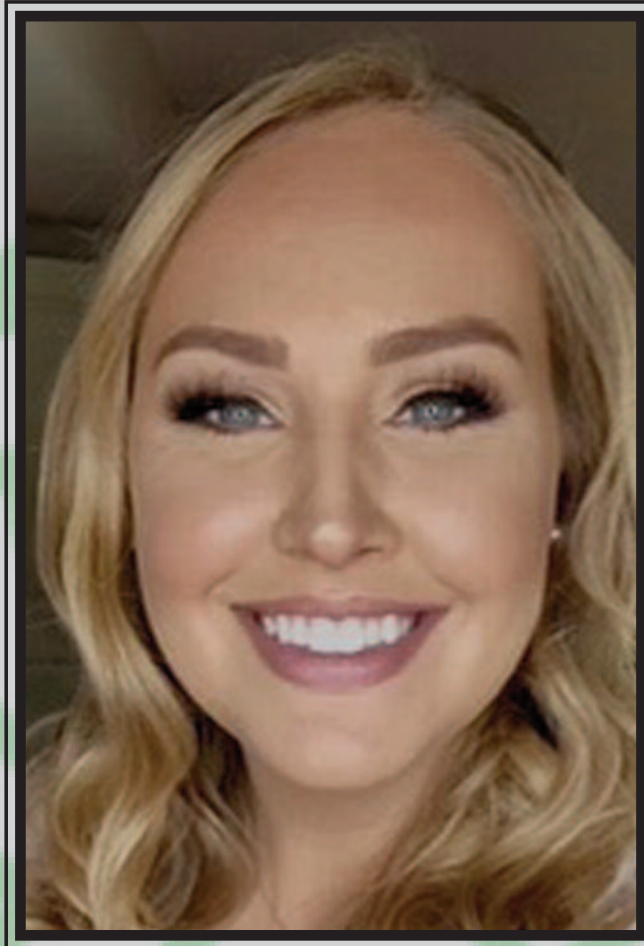
Connor Coughlin

Where you live: New York City.
Place of Birth: New York City.
Age: 27.
Family: Parents: Maureen and Dave Coughlin; siblings: Mychala and Matthew Coughlin.
First Job: Analyst at Apex Fintech Solutions.
What it taught me: Always raise your hand for new opportunities, don't shy away from solving problems you don't know the answer to, and embrace feedback when your solutions are wrong.
Current Company and position: General Manager, Fintech - Apex Fintech

Solutions.
Best advice you could give someone starting out: Look for what you enjoy in what you do, then do everything you can to keep getting better at it.
How do you embrace your Irish Heritage? Irish Heritage was always an important focal point of my extended family growing up. Embracing my Irish Heritage is about embracing my family and the opportunities they have afforded me.
Something that people would be surprised to know about me: My father was a sailmaker when I was growing up so I spent a lot of time on the factory floor and am pretty good with a sewing machine.

Connor is a native of New York, born in the Bronx and raised in Westchester he attended Fordham Prep and then Columbia University where he studied Political Science and Computer Science. Connor was captain of the rowing team at both Fordham and Columbia. Connor began his career at Apex Fintech Solutions (AFS). He is currently the General Manager of Fintech at AFS. At work Connor is focused on driving growth of one of their core business lines by providing products that allow startups and industry incumbents alike to create digital investing experiences. In his personal life Connor is an avid cyclist and marathon runner.





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Siobhán Kinealy

Where you live: Madison, New Jersey.

Place of Birth: Dublin, Ireland.

Age: 37.

Family: I have two beautiful children, Saoirse Rose (2 years) and Declan (5 months), with my husband, Dave. I am lucky to have my mum, Dr. Christine Kinealy, and brother, Ciarán, here in America. My extended Italian-American in-laws, The Marcheses, are close by in New Jersey.

First Job: Games and ride operator at Southport Fairground (England).

What it taught me: It was a tough, physically demanding 12-hour-day job for really low pay. Working for minimum wage is a grind and I was very fortunate to only have to work there during university. It showed me that I am capable of working hard but my experience since then has taught me that success also takes intelligence, resilience and luck.

Current Company and position: Owner and attorney, The Law Offices of Siobhán Kinealy, Esq., LLC.

Best advice you could give someone starting out: Success is not a straight line. Even with two law degrees, three law licenses and my own law firm, I took on two jobs to make it through the tough first years as a business owner. Owning a business is worth it but it may not look

that glamorous in the beginning.

How do you embrace your Irish Heritage? Every year I teach at Gael Scoil in New Jersey, which is a unique weekend-long event for school-age children to immerse in Irish history, culture, sports and food. Most years, I teach about the Brehon Laws, but I have also taught on The Troubles and Brexit's impact on Northern Ireland. Helping keep the next generation of Irish-Americans engaged and informed about Ireland is truly an honor.

Something that people would be surprised to know about me: The first



dance at my wedding was You'll Never Walk Alone. We are big fans of Liverpool Football Club in our house. We watch every match as a family and text my mum and brother with the updates throughout. The added bonus of two young kids is that even early match times are not that early anymore!

Siobhán was born in Dublin, Ireland and grew up between Belfast, Northern Ireland, and Liverpool, England. From a young age, Siobhán has been committed to justice and equality. Growing up in Northern Ireland during The Troubles, she saw first-hand the importance of attorneys in the lives of the under-represented.

In 2007, she graduated from the University of Essex, England, with a BA History, where she was a member of the Women's Rugby Team and President of the Students' Union. She later returned to school to complete an LLB Law in Manchester, England. In 2011, Siobhán left England for New Jersey to pursue a JD at Rutgers School of Law- Newark, graduating in 2014.

Prior to attending Rutgers, Siobhán's career spanned the Atlantic. She worked as a corporate headhunter in Manchester, England, and as a business analyst for Citi Private Bank in New York City. After her year in New York, Siobhán knew that she wanted to come back to the city and to practice law here.

After gaining her JD, Siobhán worked

in private practice, representing a range of individual, corporate and non-profit clients. Siobhán completed a one-year fellowship as a "Low-Bond" attorney in Newark, New Jersey. She handled a range of cases in New Jersey and Federal Court for low-income clients.

While representing some of New Jersey's most under-represented groups, Siobhán realized that there was a real need for law firms that work in a cost-effective way to serve everyone. In 2016, Siobhán founded the Law Offices of Siobhán Kinealy, Esq. LLC. Bottom line: everyone needs an estate plan but it does not need to be the painful and expensive process many people imagine.

Siobhán believes that there is a need for estate planning that is more personal than simply plugging your information into a legal website but more efficient and transparent than many traditional law firms. She has developed a firm that automates many of the standard processes in estate planning so that she can concentrate on creating bespoke plans that meet her clients' individual needs. Siobhán has developed a secure client portal and a scheduling system that allows her clients to book directly into her calendar. She offers out-of-hours calls to allow working parents the opportunity to talk to their attorney when it is convenient for them and fully virtual services to accommodate the busiest schedules. Siobhán has built a firm that is uniquely designed around her clients.



Kate Ward

Where you live: Phoenixville, PA.

Place of Birth: Newport Beach, CA.

Age: 38.

Family: Wonderful husband Mike Ward and sons Henry (5) and Colm (3). Parents Joe and Sharon Brennan, brothers Brian and Michael Brennan.

First Job: Pet sitting.

What it taught me: A friend and I hand-drew flyers and posted them in our neighborhood. It wasn't exactly an entrepreneurial success, but even back then I enjoyed the design process!

Current Company and position: Founder of Ward Design, a strategic branding and marketing studio. It's been so rewarding to combine my passion for design with my experience in business and real estate to deliver some incredible projects to amazing clients.

Best advice you could give someone starting out: Don't worry so much about where you'll end up. Do what you say you'll do. Look for interesting opportunities. Above all, surround yourself with wonderful people who are really in your corner and be there for

them, as well.

How do you embrace your Irish Heritage? Although my family emigrated from Ireland a few generations ago, we always celebrated our Irish heritage. The pillars of good humor, elaborate storytelling, humility, and camaraderie are still going strong in our household! As a young girl, I loved hearing stories about Ireland and watching 'The Quiet Man' on St. Patrick's Day with my family. Later, while studying at Notre Dame, I decided to spend a year abroad at Trinity College Dublin and fell in love with Ireland firsthand. Today, I'm a proud member of the Board of Directors at the Irish American Business Chamber Network in Philadelphia. Admittedly, I also love a good pint of beer!

Something that people would be surprised to know about me: I have quite varied interests. Although I have an Economics degree, I almost went to art school to pursue a career in illustration. I also moonlighted as a food and beer writer.

Kate Ward is the CEO and Founder of Ward Design, a strategic branding and marketing studio. Ward Design focuses on helping business owners, real estate and construction firms, and non-profits broaden their impact and reach their goals through insightful design and marketing strategy.

Named one of Chester County's "40 Under 40" by Vista Today, Kate also serves on the Board of Directors of the Irish American Business Chamber Network, as Executive Chair of the March of Dimes Salute to Women of Achievement Awards, and on the Borough of Phoenixville's Zoning Hearing Board.

Kate received her Bachelor of Arts in Economics, graduating magna cum laude from the University of Notre Dame.



Rory McGloin

Where you live: Colchester, CT.

Place of Birth: Hartford, CT.

Age: 37.

Family: Wife - Megan McGloin; Daughter - Mairéad McGloin, 8.

First Job: Sears (Retail).

What it taught me: My first job was at Sears. I worked in the Men's Department during the Christmas season. This first job taught me many lessons, but the thing that stays with me to this very day is the value of being kind to those in the retail and service industry. On a regular basis I would be mistreated (rude, impatient, etc.) by the public during the hectic holiday shopping season. I learned to be patient with those who are providing services and to demonstrate kindness and respect in all service situations especially in an effort to make-up for others who may not have learned the same lessons as I did early in my life.

Current Company and position: University of Connecticut, Professor of Business Communication; Founder & President, RPM Communication Consulting; University of Connecticut, Associate Director, Professional Education Program; University of Connecticut, Assistant Director,

Connecticut Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation.

Best advice you could give someone starting out: Attitude is everything - bring a positive energy to every environment you are in. Be the person that others want to be around and they will want to work with you. Say yes to opportunities and learn as you go. Do the right thing always - your decisions cannot be "edited". Go forward each day with great care for those around you and the rest of your skills and abilities will fall into place accordingly.

How do you embrace your Irish Heritage?

To be Irish is to share: to share our story, our history, our traditions, our culture, and our time with others. To be Irish is to be generous and hospitable and I strive to share those values with everyone I meet. I cherish the opportunity to share my perspectives on Irish history and culture with those who value it, and I specifically seek to spread Irish culture to new audiences through sport and my deep passion for our Gaelic games.

Something that people would be surprised to know about me: I spent every summer on our family farm in Cavan during my childhood summers. I have so many great memories of working on the farm (and in the bog) with my cousins and aunts and uncles. I cherish those days as they taught me so many things, but most importantly gave me a sense of home and belonging.

Rory McGloin, Ph.D. is an award-winning communication professor at the University of Connecticut. Rory's career in higher education spans 16 years, including engagements with over 10,000 learners to date and 31 peer-reviewed journal publications. Rory's current work is focused on the use of communication best practices in organizational training and development programs. Rory is also an entrepreneur who owns and operates his own communication consulting firm, in which he shares his expertise with organizations seeking to engage in meaningful transformations through the value of effective communication.

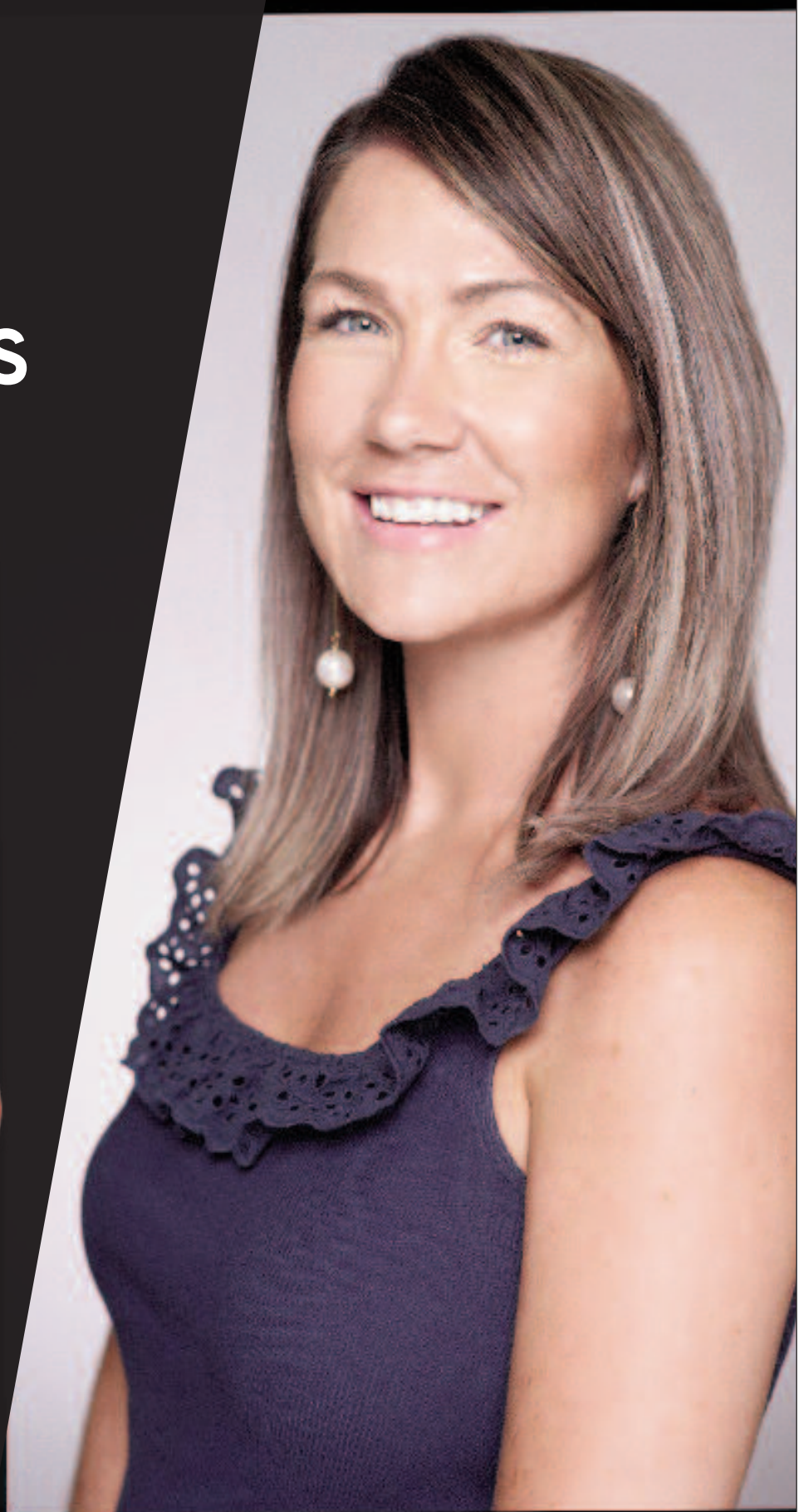


CONGRATULATIONS KERRI

ON BEING A WELL
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FOR
THE IRISH ECHOS 2022



From all the staff at
Coyle



Patrick Collins

Where you live: Hamilton, NJ.

Place of Birth: Hoboken, NJ.

Age: 26.

Family: Fiancé- Alexa Vintimilla; Dawn Collins – Mother; Michael "Peter" Collins – Father; Michael Collins – Brother; Shawn Collins – Brother; Christopher Collins – Brother.

First Job: Selling Ice Cream.

What it taught me: Mike's Ice Cream taught me how to interact with individuals and hold a conversation in addition to learning how to keep a store operating. I worked there for 5 years and worked in all capacities at the store including counter service, store upkeep and maintenance, making the homemade ice cream and cakes, managing and training employees, and accounting for daily sales and bank runs. It was a major contributor to my interpersonal and time management skills.

Current Company and position: Owner of PC Collins Company. PC Collins Company,

LLC is a permanent staffing agency located in New Jersey specializing in construction and real estate. Our reach spans across the United States with a primary focus on the Mid-Atlantic and Northeast regions.

Our consultative approach paired with strong research and vetting capabilities has proven success in presenting qualified talent to our clients. We confidentially work with candidates and fully consider their experience and career goals to guide them to fulfilling opportunities. Our main objective is to build long lasting relationships with both clients and candidates.

Best advice you could give someone starting out: Persistence is key, many wrong doors will lead to the right one. Being nice doesn't cost a dime and people will always remember how you treat them. When individuals remember you for being a persistent hardworking individual with a smile on their face they will be sure to refer your business and work with you over the competition.

How do you embrace your Irish Heritage?

I embrace my Irish heritage by supporting local Irish businesses (food, drinks, services) and associations. In addition to supporting Irish business and associations I enjoy attending local events and speaking with fellow Irish-Americans.

Something that people would be surprised to know about me:

1. I have a degree in Fire Science and went to school to pursue Fire Investigation.
2. I was an amateur sponsored skateboarder in my early teens.
3. I am right-handed but swing a golf club and baseball bat lefty.

Patrick Collins, Owner of PC Collins Company, LLC previously worked with NYC staffing agencies to develop their architecture, engineering, construction (AEC) and real estate divisions from the ground up. After years of success, Patrick opened his own permanent staffing agency specializing in AEC and real estate. Patrick takes pride in his consultative and responsive approach

assembled upon transparency, integrity and high quality service.



Sean O'Keefe

Where you live: New Rochelle, NY.

Place of Birth: Yonkers, NY.

Age: 39.

Family: I have been married to my college sweetheart Donielle (Doni) for 16 years. We have five wonderful children: Brendon (15, 10th grade at Regis HS), Kyleigh (12, 7th grade at TUS), Declan (8, 2nd grade), Timmy (5, Pre-K), and Maeve (5 months). We have lived in New Rochelle, NY for the past 10 years. My parents are Francis and Mary O'Keefe. I am the middle of three children. I have an older brother Patrick and a younger sister Molly.

First Job: US Army Officer.

What it taught me: Attending West Point and serving in the military changed my life in so many ways. If I had to pick the greatest lesson, it would be importance of serving others. As an Officer, it was my responsibility to lead and train America's sons and daughters with the goal of bringing everyone home safely. This was a task I did not take lightly. I tried to serve in such a way that I could inspire them to be their best selves and maintain their motivation during challenging situations which included a 15-month deployment to Iraq in 2006-2008. West Point taught me the value of servant leadership. Servant leadership creates an environment where people at all levels feel respected and valued and this in turn lends itself to more engagement. Serving instead of commanding, showing humility instead of authority, being accountable instead of distributing blame and always being willing to sweep the floor when the floor

needs sweeping builds a sense of togetherness and purpose. The idea of always putting the needs of my team first is the foundation on which I have built both my professional and personal life.

Current Company and position: Audax Private Debt, Managing Director. Audax Private Debt makes loans to middle market companies. We work collaboratively with private equity sponsors to help build financing solutions on behalf of our capital partners, and investors.

Best advice you could give someone starting out: The best advice I would give to someone starting out in any field is to be dependable and accountable. I believe that a strong work ethic should go without being said. All things can be learned with the appropriate amount of focus and discipline. Do not be afraid to ask questions and to put yourself out there. Take on tough assignments with the desire to learn from all of the mistakes that you will make. The person that is eager and willing to take on challenging tasks or responsibilities that may not be all that desirable to others, and then hold themselves and others accountable, is someone that will do well regardless of the chosen field.

How do you embrace your Irish Heritage?

My family's Irish Heritage has always been extremely important to me. As a father, I am proud to pass down the love of my culture to my kids. They truly believe in the concept of "if you are lucky enough to be Irish, then you are lucky enough!" The O'Keefes have remained active in the Kerryman's Association since my Grandfather was President many years ago. My father recently served as President and I am currently on the board as well. My daughter, Kyleigh is also immersed in the Irish Dance world and has danced for the Flynn School since she was four. The Flynn School is located at the Aisling Center on McLean Ave. She was a quick study and with a great work ethic, worked her way up to open championship at the age of 7. Along with her wonderful and dedicated teacher, Bridget Flynn, Kyleigh has traveled overseas several times (pre-pandemic) to compete in England, Scotland and Ireland. Kyleigh was on the podium at the All-Scotlands, and is an All-Ireland medal holder. She is also a 5-time World Qualifier and a top 4 dancer in her age group for the Mid-

Atlantic Region for the past 5 years. There's often a jig or reel playing at our house!

Something that people would be surprised to know about me: When I was a baby I played Baby Jamie for Playtex in a commercial that ran for 10 years.

Sean O'Keefe was born and raised in Yonkers, NY. Son of Francis and Mary O'Keefe, he has one older brother (Patrick) and one younger sister (Molly). He is married to Donielle (Doni) and together they have 5 children, Brendon, Kyleigh, Declan, Timmy and Maeve.

Sean attended St. John the Baptist grammar school in Yonkers and graduated high school from Fordham Prep in the Bronx. For college, Sean attended the United States Military Academy at West Point where he was a member of Men's Basketball Team serving as the team's captain in his senior year while earning team MVP honors. Upon graduation from West Point, Sean was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in the US Army. Sean first served as a Graduate Assistant coach for the Men's Basketball Team at West Point, before attending the Field Artillery Officer Basic Course in Fort Sill, OK. His first duty assignment was as a member of the 1st Cavalry Division, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 2/82 Field Artillery Regiment in Fort Hood, TX. After reporting to Fort Hood, Sean married his college sweetheart and fellow West Point classmate and Army Officer Donielle (Doni) O'Keefe, nee Taylor, in October 2005.

In September 2006, Sean and Doni welcomed their first child, Brendon Patrick, to the world while stationed at Fort Hood, TX. Three weeks after Brendon's birth, Sean was deployed to Baqubah, Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom where he was responsible for all logistical support for 3 artillery firing points that covered more than 18,000 sq km with 24-hr artillery support for combat operations in the Diyala Province. Sean's service was during the 'surge' in Iraq and his unit played a crucial role in providing security support for combat operations. Sean received the Bronze Star Service Medal for his efforts while in Iraq. Midway through the 15-month deployment, Sean was joined by his wife who served as the head of nighttime base security for FOB Warhorse. Both Sean and Doni were promoted to the rank of Captain while in Iraq and returned stateside in December 2007. After

returning from Iraq, the O'Keefes were stationed at West Point in 2008 where Sean joined the Men's Basketball staff as a full-time assistant coach. In October 2009, Kyleigh Devyn was born at West Point. While Sean loved serving in the Army, he and his wife made the mutual decision to leave the Army after six years and return to Westchester County. Sean was Honorably Discharged from the Army in 2010 and joined Goldman Sachs as an Analyst on the Insurance Asset Management team within GSAM. Sean left GS in 2012 to join Audax Private Debt where he joined the team as an Associate. Since joining Audax, he has been promoted four times; Senior Associate in 2013, Vice President in 2016, Senior Vice President in 2020 and most recently Managing Director in 2021. The last two promotions earned during the pandemic and working from home is truly a credit to his work ethic and servant leadership philosophy.

While working for Audax, the O'Keefe's were delighted to expand their home team with enough players to field a starting five. In 2013, they welcomed Declan Michael to the family followed by his younger brother Timothy Kenney (Timmy) in 2016. The O'Keefe family was over the moon to recently welcome Maeve Frances to clan in 2021.

The O'Keefes are members of Holy Family Church in New Rochelle and are active members of their community, including the Irish-American community. Sean has served on the Kerryman's Property Inc. board for 4 years following in the footsteps of his father and grandfather. Kyleigh is an Irish dancer at The Flynn School of Irish Dance in Yonkers where she has competed Internationally and Nationally including earning an All-Ireland medal at the 2020 All-Ireland Championships. Kyleigh has also participated in the NY Rose of Tralee competitions as a Rosebud for several years. Sean serves as the MC at the annual Flynn Feis. He has also coached many youth sports teams for his sons including baseball and CYO basketball. He is currently the coach for a 3rd grade Holy Family basketball team and serves as a Coach for the Share the Ball basketball program in upper Westchester. There's rarely a weekend where there isn't an O'Keefe kid running, dancing, or shooting a ball somewhere and Sean's always there to lend a hand and cheer proudly from the sidelines.

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Kathleen (Katie) Kokolus

Where you live: Buffalo, NY.

Place of Birth: Buffalo, NY.

Age: 37.

Family: I am blessed to have the endless support of my parents Anne (Donohoe) and Gary Kokolus. In typical Buffalo fashion, my parents merged Irish and Polish genes resulting in myself and my three siblings John, Julie, and Kevin. More recently, we've welcomed my brother-in-law Kush and niece Kayleigh. I have a six-year-old red-haired golden retriever named McGee. My grandparents, Kay (Rooney) and Jack Donohoe, grew up in Dublin and came to Buffalo in 1950 on the RMS Queen Mary. In typical Irish fashion both came from very large families, and thanks to genealogy websites and the invention of email, we have been able to reconnect and stay in touch with much of our extended family living throughout Ireland.

First Job: Lifeguard.

What it taught me: Always wear sunscreen! My first job shaped my character and my work ethic. It taught me time management, the importance of acting respectfully, and how to manage money. I learned the value of hard work because I had to work very hard to afford the Abercrombie jeans my parents wouldn't buy me. I faced the tough reality that being in the sun all day doesn't bode well for fair, freckled, Irish skin. I also learned the important lesson that you can never own too many pairs of flip flops!

Current Company and position: I work in cancer research in the Department of Immunology at Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center in Buffalo,

NY. My work focuses on developing new methods to treat patients with immune-based cancer therapies. Working at a comprehensive cancer center gives me the privilege of collaborating with teams of physicians and scientists focused on developing novel treatments that will directly impact patients' lives. I am grateful for the opportunity to advance my research in a highly collaborative and scientifically motivated environment like Roswell Park.

Best advice you could give someone starting out: Sorry to all that are shy, but you should put yourself out there! Don't be afraid to let everyone know who you are and how good you are at your job. Personality goes a long way. Go out of your way to be kind to everyone from a high school intern to the top boss. Provide assistance whenever you can because you never know when you will need someone's help. Establish relationships, even if some are based on a simple smile and a "hello", when walking into work each morning. Introduce yourself to everyone because when people know who you are, there is a better chance they will want to try their very best to help you when you need them. Oh, and ALWAYS send hand-written thank you notes (especially after a job interview)!

How do you embrace your Irish Heritage? I was only blessed with knowing my Irish grandmother for a few years and sadly we lost my grandfather before I was born. My mom always refers to Ireland as "God's Country," and since my first visit, I have vehemently agreed. From the beautiful countryside to the hustle and bustle of Dublin and friendly, welcoming feeling of every pub, I quickly embraced the country, the culture, and



the people. I am always looking forward to my next trip!

Despite my Polish last name, I am well acquainted with the typical Irish traits, and I have them all. Curly hair, freckles, pale skin, big blue eyes, stubbornness, and, as anyone who has ever sat next to me at the bar can attest, the "gift of the gab". I am well-known for baking my Grandma Kit's soda bread, and never shy away from a shot of Jameson and a Sullivan's beer.

Something that people would be surprised to know about me: My dog is named McGee after Terrance McGee, former kick returner for the Buffalo Bills.

Kathleen (Katie) Kokolus, PhD, grew up in Buffalo, NY where she graduated from Nardin Academy, an all-girls Catholic high school in 2003. Katie was an accomplished swimmer,

competing from age 7 into college, and she credits many of the lessons she learned in the pool in shaping her future successes.

Kokolus graduated from Duquesne University (Pittsburgh, PA, USA) with a BS in Biology in 2007 and a MS in Forensic Science and Law in 2008. In 2014, Kokolus received a PhD in Tumor Immunology from the State University at New York at Buffalo (Buffalo, NY, USA) and completed a postdoctoral fellowship at the Penn State College of Medicine (Hershey, PA, USA). In 2018, Kokolus started at Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center working to develop new therapeutic options and enhance the efficacy of current treatment strategies. Her broad research interests include immunology and stress, and she is focused on studying immunotherapy, one of the most promising treatments available for patients with advanced cancers. In addition to her research, Kokolus is highly motivated to train the next generation of cancer researchers by mentoring students and interns in the lab. She teaches classes on immunology, cancer biology, and laboratory techniques for the Roswell Park Graduate program.

In her free time, Katie volunteers as a Docent for the Explore Buffalo organization giving history and architecture tours around the city of Buffalo. She also does free-lance writing for the social networking website Labroots, explaining complex scientific concepts in cancer and oncology research. Katie enjoys traveling and visiting museums, collecting Christmas tree ornaments, spending time with family and friends, and cheering for the Buffalo Bills!

Catherine Kavanagh

Where you live: Bayside, Queens.

Place of Birth: Flushing, Queens.

Age: 34.

Family: Bridget (Duncan) Kavanagh - Mother - Donegal; Peter Kavanagh - Father - Monaghan; Chase Victorson - Husband.

First Job: My first job was working the reception desk at the rectory of my church.

What it taught me: My first job taught me a lot. Aside from the normal things like punctuality, politeness, and respect, I learned to step out of my comfort zone. I remember being so worried that a parishioner would call and ask a question that I couldn't answer or I wouldn't know how to complete their request. I was terrified that they would judge me if I needed to ask for help. Of course, without fail, there were requests I couldn't help with or questions that I couldn't answer, but I learned that it was ok to admit I needed help! This lesson still guides me every day.

Current Company and position: Columbia University - Department of Physicians and Surgeons - Assistant Professor and Dr. of Pediatric Nephrology.

Best advice you could give someone starting out: Don't compare yourself to others. While becoming the head of the department or the manager of a large team may be prestigious, it may not be what is right for you. Try to set your own goals, take time to think about what brings you fulfillment and don't be afraid to pivot. It is great when you can find

something you love early on and stick with it throughout your life. Most of us are not that lucky, at least not in a way that we can stick with. I may love jumping rope but unless and until I can find a way to make a living out of that I need to pivot. The key is to identify what you like. Do you like talking to people, do you want to crunch numbers, do you enjoy research? People get too focused on "I want to be X" and don't realize that they love X because it allows them to do Y - and that they can do Y in a variety of different ways in many different fields. Knowing where you can pivot and being ready/willing to pivot will prove to make you as successful as you want to be.

How do you embrace your Irish Heritage? So many ways! I try to go to Ireland, specifically counties Monaghan and Donegal, once per year. I competed in Irish Step Dancing for many years. I am very involved with the Donegal Association of New York having been the recording secretary for six years, and the chairwomen of the dance journal for three. I also go out of my way to learn and teach about Ireland and Irish heritage often talking about things like the 1916 uprising, learning Gaelic with my husband (learning is a very strong word - I am trying to pronounce it correctly at this point!) and I march in the parade every year. I really look forward to proudly demonstrating my 'shared' Irish heritage with everyone I meet.

Something that people would be surprised to know about me: I am a Harry Potter fanatic - in fact it wasn't until I learned that my (future) husband was a Harry Potter fan that I decided our relationship could begin. People would

also be surprised to learn that despite the flame orange color of my hair, I swear it is a strawberry blond and will never admit otherwise. I am a Weasly...

Finally, I really enjoy home renovation and working on crafts. I am currently in the process of renovating a trailer with my husband and father.

Catherine Kavanagh was born to Pete and Breege (Duncan) Kavanagh in Queens New York in 1987. Her parents hail from Counties Monaghan and Donegal. From an early age she knew she wanted to become a doctor to help people which is how she ended up at Columbia University Hospital as a Pediatric Nephrologist. A graduate from Stony Brook with a degree in History and Penn State Medical School at Hersey, Catherine has spent significant time outside of school and work helping in underserved communities. She spent time in Latin America and India on several medical service trips. She additionally traveled to New Orleans with habitat for humanity to rebuild communities devastated after Hurricane Katrina.

She specifically entered the field of pediatric nephrology with a passion for working with children with kidney disease because she enjoys the ongoing special relationships that she gets to with her patients. Catherine enjoys the privilege of helping educate children, parents, and fellow pediatricians about the kidneys and their role in nutrition, growth, and development. Catherine's specific area of interest is disorders of the kidney filters—the glomeruli—which clean the blood by



filtering out excess fluid and waste products. Catherine works closely with patients and parents to optimize nutrition, hydration, and medications to help the kidneys perform their very important roles!

Catherine additionally works with and is involved in the training of medical students, pediatricians-in-training, and future pediatric nephrologists to educate them on the management of patients with kidney disorders and how to safely treat and help them thrive. It just so happens that because kidney disorders often involve the retaining of water and she deals with infants that she often 'has' to play with 'fat' babies - something Catherine thoroughly enjoys about her job.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE WINNERS OF THE IRISH ECHO 40 UNDER 40 AWARDS!

We are so proud of these talented men and women who exemplify the values of hard work, decency and idealism of the Irish American Community. Over 35 million Americans claim Irish heritage across America and the Irish Echo has been a key part of our community for nearly 100 years, nurturing our identity through awards such as these in a creative, vibrant and inclusive way. Our two organizations, the Irish Business Organization of New York (IBO) and Glucksman Ireland House at NYU deeply appreciate the Irish Echo for informing the Irish community of many new opportunities for the next generation of Irish Americans in so many sectors from business to culture to sports to academic life and to public service.



Our Mission: Network, Communicate, Reciprocate

The Irish Business Organization of New York is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, nondenominational association which seeks to promote, foster, and advance the business interests of Irish and Irish-American people. Founded in 1973, the Irish Business Organization of New York Inc. is chartered to encourage, increase, and further the business interests of its members in the tristate area, United States, Ireland and elsewhere in the world. We sponsor noteworthy guest speaker programs and social events throughout the year, and promote programs designed to improve the economic, intellectual, and social status of our members. Through its regular networking meetings, the IBO holds more than 25 events a year including monthly evening events, monthly business breakfasts, a quarterly women's networking lunch, and other member events.

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NYU GSAS online application: <https://apply.gsas.nyu.edu/apply/>

Ciara Schenk

Where you live: New York, NY.

Place of Birth: Evanston, IL.

Age: 29.

Family: I come from a family of four helmed by my amazing parents, Joe and Wexford-born and raised, Aine. I'm the odd one out in a sea of S-named siblings, Sean, Sinead, and Siobhan. Over the past few years, my family has grown to include my fiancé, Jack, our dog Lady, a sister-in-law in Sean's wife, Bri and their daughter/my niece, Adeline. Outside of my core family, I have a robust extended family including 20 aunts and uncles and 24 cousins!

First Job: Cardinal's Appeal Intern, Archdiocese of New York.

What it taught me: This role taught me quite a bit, including how to handle difficult conversations, how to build trust in professional relationships, and the value of stewardship.

Convincing people to donate money and convincing people to convince people to donate money is tough! It can be uncomfortable and awkward because personal finances are always very sensitive. In the short course of my internship, I began to learn how to navigate these conversations and how to get key stakeholders to trust you and these skills have translated into all of my subsequent roles.

Perhaps more importantly however, was learning the value of supporting charitable causes early in my career. That experience helped shaped my personal philosophies as a young professional with the ability to support deserving causes. Donating time, talent or treasure is a muscle I think all young people should begin to flex early on, even if their ability to contribute seems limited - every little bit counts!

Current Company and position: Global Revenue Acceleration Programs Lead, Customer Success, Google Cloud.

Best advice you could give someone starting out:

Take advantage of any opportunity that comes your way that will challenge you and be patient! Your first job is unlikely to be your favorite job, but it builds experience and credibility that will help get you that next job. Taking advantage of opportunities that get thrown your way means you're building relationships and growing your skillset and you never know where that might lead. Every new role I've taken at Google has been because I've built rapport with that new team and proven my value even when I might not have been qualified on paper or even in instances when that team wasn't actively looking to hire!

How do you embrace your Irish Heritage? Being Irish is a big part of my identity. For better or worse, I have the privilege of educating people on the intricacies of Gaelic pronunciation on a near daily basis via correcting them on the pronunciation of my name! But on a more serious note, I am the proud daughter of a wonderful Irish woman, Aine, and take great joy in having a large extended Irish family. I try to visit as much as possible (pre-Covid, at least once a year) and have greatly enjoyed inducting my fiancé into the family and culture on trips back.

Ciara is currently the Global Head of Revenue Acceleration Programs for the Google Cloud Customer Success team. After graduating with a degree in Finance & Accounting from New York University in 2014, Ciara started her career in Management Consulting with KPMG in 2015 where she spent 3 years working with Fortune 500 companies on cloud implementations. She then joined Google in March of 2018 on the Cloud Sales team. After a year supporting the Mid-Atlantic sales region, she briefly moved into a program management role on the Global

Technical Account Management team before switching gears to help build the Google Cloud Customer Success team in late 2019. Over the past 2 years, Ciara has helped grow the team from 0 to ~250 Customer Success Managers globally. While continuing to support the growth of the Customer Success team, she now predominantly focuses on building programs and tools that help field teams accelerate revenue growth with Google Cloud's top strategic customers.

Ciara lives in the Upper West Side of Manhattan with her fiancé, Jack and their dog, Lady. In her spare time, she loves spending time with her family, traveling to new places (up to 45 countries and counting), experimenting in the kitchen, and cycling.

Sarah Costello

Where you live: Celebration, Florida, USA.

Place of Birth: Belfast, Ireland.

Age: 36.

Family: Mother - Eileen Costello; Father - Michael Costello; Four Brothers - Malachy, Barry, Gerard & Michael; Two Sisters - Aisling (Twin sister), Eimhear; Niece - Cara Ellen; Nephew - Ciaran.

First Job: Work experience with Radio Fáilte in Culturlann in Belfast.

What it taught me: That the Irish Language is an extremely beautiful and poetic language and that people across the Island of Ireland were working hard to keep it alive. I learned to be confident in my own voice, how to live by a schedule, and how the radio was a wonderful form of entertainment and communication. It enhanced my love of the Irish Culture at such a young age.

Current Company and position: Director and Founder of Central Florida Irish Dance. Casting Director for CMI Entertainment in USA. Professional Musician / Dancer with Celtic Angels Ireland the show. Co-owner of Paw Academy Pet Care, Florida.

Best advice you could give someone starting out: If you have a goal or dream go for it. Do not let anyone tell you that it is not possible or you are not good enough. If you work hard enough and have the determination you can be whatever you put your mind to.

How do you embrace your Irish Heritage?

I embrace my Irish Heritage in nearly every aspect of my life. Through teaching Irish dance, music and Irish Language to my students every day to performing for audiences across the USA in Celtic Angels the show. I am a proud Irish woman from West Belfast who emigrated to America alone and created an Irish community in Central Florida where all Irish and Americans can come together to enjoy all aspects of the Irish Culture.

Something that people would be surprised to know about me:

I have a twin sister (I am 9 minutes older) and I am one of seven children. I have no family in the USA except for my wonderful Fiancé. I am a professional dog walker! I won Miss Teen Belfast when I was 17!

Sarah Costello is the founder and director of Central Florida Irish Dance. A native of West Belfast, Ireland, Sarah grew up in a large Catholic family enriched in Irish music, language and theatre from a very young age.

She is a professional Irish Dancer and musician who has toured the world for over 13 years with world renowned Irish dance shows and has been lucky enough to perform in 31 countries.

Graduating in 2007 with a Bachelor's Degree in Theatre and Irish from Queens University Belfast, she then went on the graduate as a TCRG (Irish Dance Teacher) in 2008 under Chomhdháil na Múinteoirí le Rincí Gaelacha Teoranta otherwise known as An Chomhdháil - The congress of Irish Dance Teachers. Sarah has had over 10 years teaching experience in both Ireland and the USA. Sarah is currently

studying for her ADCRG (Irish Dance Adjudicator) exam to take place in 2022.

She was lead dancer and dance captain for many professional dance troupes including Gaelforce Dance and Dance of Desire that toured Europe and Asia. Sarah relocated to Orlando, Florida in 2011 to perform professionally at Walt Disney World. She then went on to open her own Irish dance school. Boosting 11 locations including one in Georgia and over 130 students to date, Central Florida Irish Dance currently has North American Open Champions as young as 6 years old. Her students hold state, national and International world medals for Irish dancing and is the biggest Irish dance school in the state of Florida.

Sarah was the recipient of the 2015 'Contribution to the Irish Community Award' from the Irish American Chamber of Commerce in Florida, and also received the Excellence Award for outstanding achievement for 'I Love Dance' competition Orlando in 2018 as well as the inaugural "Fusionfest Entertainment winner 2018." A native Irish Speaker, Sarah promotes the Irish Language and music on tin-whistle, flute and bodhran in her students in classes. Sarah had a short documentary made about her youth growing up in West Belfast during the troubles and it won Best Film at the FusionFest Cultural Festival in Orlando in 2019. She is truly an incredible inspiring woman to all of her students and beyond. She is living the American dream and worked extremely hard to create her own business and become a permanent resident of the USA via an EB1 Green Card proving her extraordinary ability. Sarah is the casting director for CMI Entertainments and has toured the USA extensively as a musician and dancer with Celtic Angels, Women of Ireland and Tony Kenny Cabaret over the years. A fiercely independent and successful entrepreneur, Sarah is a credit to Ireland and the amazing culture she has brought to the USA and continues to promote every day.

Sarah is the definition of the American dream and hopes to continue her passion of educating through Irish Culture for many years to come.



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sustainability and garment
workers' rights in the
fashion industry.

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Aunt Kerry



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Grace Tallon

Where you live: Astoria, New York.

Place of Birth: Dublin, Ireland.

Age: 36.

Family: I live in New York with my partner Joe and our two furry babies Lady and Ned. I am 5th generation Dublin on both sides. My parents, my brother and his family, and my sister and her family all stayed close to home and live in our hometown Dundrum, Dublin. My other sister emigrated to Sydney Australia and I also have a brother living in San Francisco.

First Job: Summer Camp Assistant.

What it taught me: I spent a summer working with a group of young people in my old primary school, teaching dance and musical theater. This was the first time where I was offered the opportunity to show leadership and initiative outside of the standard school curriculum – and it was an environment in which I thrived. This exposure to practical experience was invaluable to me, but is often not available to many.

We are doing it wrong when it comes to educating the next generation of innovators, leaders and creators. Boxing young people into rote learning and eliminating the opportunity to learn from practical experience destroys some people's chances of excelling.

The system makes those who don't fit into this box feel stupid. Some of these so-called stupid people end up becoming some of our brightest minds - others are not as fortunate. It is the "others" we need to change for.

Current Company and position: Executive Director, Newpark Academy of Music.

Best advice you could give someone

starting out: Don't reserve empathy for when it's easy to be empathetic – practice it in the face of adversity. Make time for the things that you love to do - and only work for employers who respect and value your time. Listen more and ask more.

How do you embrace your Irish Heritage? I enjoy keeping the tradition of sean-nós singing alive in my family and community. I've been invited to perform in the New York Irish Center on St. Patrick's Day, and I'm very much looking forward to celebrating our culture by playing the fiddle and singing sean-nós!

Something that people would be surprised to know about me: I was the youngest public representative elected to Dun-Laoghaire Rathdown County Council in Dublin.

Grace Tallon is a driven and dynamic arts manager and activist, with extensive leadership experience, a passion for social justice and progressive change. Grace is currently Executive Director of Newpark Academy of Music, a not-for-profit arts organization in Dublin, Ireland. She has held this position since 2019. Since then, she has overseen a significant organizational restructuring and change program.

She is currently based in New York City, having moved to the United States in 2021 as a Visiting Research Scholar with Salem State University, where she is leading a research project on access to Music Education, with a focus on the impact on social mobility. She is also drawing on her experience and networks in NY to inform the development of a new strategic plan and a major infrastructural redevelopment project at Newpark.

Her current responsibilities as



Newpark's Executive Director involve leading and managing a diverse team of 55 administrative staff, teaching faculty and musicians, to provide high-quality and accessible music education to over 1,500 students from a diverse range of ages and backgrounds. Grace has introduced new events, workshops and coffee concerts focused on engaging new audiences and increasing accessibility to music and music education.

Grace is co-founder of "& Co.", an events and creative campaigns company. She curated, managed and produced the successful initiative, "And Still, I Rise" – a celebration of women in the Arts. Grace also led the design, development and rollout of the creative campaign, "Dogs for Micheal D. Higgins" during the campaign to re-elect Micheal D. Higgins in the 2018 Presidential election.

She previously worked as a consultant with 'Sounding the Feminists', an Irish-

based collective, committed to promoting and publicizing the creative work of female musicians. The initiative received €100,000 in government funding over five years, making a significant contribution to promoting the work of female musicians and composers.

When Grace was elected for the Labour Party on Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council in Dublin in 2011, she was the youngest public representative ever elected in the area. In 2012, Grace was elected Chair of the local area committee. She led a successful local election campaign in 2014 with a team of 40 volunteers. After serving as a Councillor for 9 years, in 2019 she decided not to contest the election, in order to pursue other professional opportunities, but she remains politically active.

In 2011, Grace established a string project in a DEIS (Delivering Equality of Opportunity in Schools) school, which ensured broad participation among children from disadvantaged backgrounds who had previously no musical involvement. She was responsible for all aspects of the program, including fundraising, teaching and stakeholder engagement.

In 2021, Grace co-founded The Doorstep Market, a voluntary initiative set up to support small, independent Irish businesses during the COVID-19 pandemic. This virtual multi-vendor marketplace was an online 'one-stop shop' where Irish consumers could 'stay home and shop local', from a selection of over 300 small Irish businesses and 1,000 products.

She holds a Music (Performance) Dip from TU Dublin, a HDip in Arts in Music Education from Griffith College Dublin, and a Postgraduate Diploma in Creativity, Innovation and Leadership from University College Dublin.

Siobhán Keane-Revie

Where you live: Pearl River, NY.

Place of Birth: Nyack, NY.

Age: 35.

Family: I met my husband, Dave Revie in 2010 while we were both working at Orange & Rockland Utilities (and on the occasional night out in O'Malley's of Nyack). We married in 2016 and have a 2 ½ year old son named Ronan, who has quickly become the head of our household. My parents were both born in Ireland. My mother, Margaret Keane (née; McGovern) was born in Belfast, but her family hails from Cavan (Swad) and Fermanagh (Enniskillen). My Father, Paul Keane, was born in Connemara Galway, where the first language is Gaelic and the second language is family. I have three siblings; Geraldine, Paul Martin and Joseph. I'm also blessed with a large extended family (Keanes, McGoverns and Revies) who are a very big part of my life.

First Job: My first job was a Customer Service Representative at Orange and Rockland Utilities.

What it taught me: It taught me the value of empathy. Empathy helps us understand how others are feeling so we can respond appropriately to the situation.

Current Company and position: Project Specialist in Substation & Transmission Engineering at Orange and Rockland Utilities.

Best advice you could give someone

growing up; "Be kind, always."

How do you embrace your Irish Heritage? By serving as a Vice President of the Con Edison Emerald Society and participating in local Rockland GAA and AOH related charity events.

Something that people would be surprised to know about me: In 2016 I ran in the NYC half marathon, for the first and last time.

Siobhán Keane-Revie is a life-long Rockland County resident, originally from Orangeburg, NY she now resides in Pearl River, NY. Siobhán attended high school at Albertus Magnus in Bardonia and earned a bachelor's degree in Business Administration with a concentration in computer information systems from Manhattan College.

Siobhán is a 12-year Orange & Rockland Utilities Inc. (O&R) employee, she began in 2009 as a Customer Service Representative and steadily advanced to positions of increasingly greater responsibility and authority. Siobhán is known as a leader with strong analytical, technical, and interpersonal skills who is recognized for her ability to exceed customer expectations. She is adept at managing large projects, particularly those dealing with information technology.

Siobhán is a Project Specialist for Substation and Transmission Engineering at O&R. She is committed to assisting the community and led a team of employees from O&R and Con Ed in a community

fund-raising effort for Rockland Homes for Heroes. The Rockland Homes for Heroes organization is a private not for profit 501c3 organization created to provide supportive, affordable and permanent housing for honorably discharged and displaced veterans. The event was a resounding success, raising over \$16,000 through donations and O&R's Employee Grants program.

In 2020, Siobhán received Con Edison Inc. highest honor, the Living Our Values Award. "Siobhán is well-known at O&R and in the community as a tireless professional, a creative problem solver and a caring, concerned and involved neighbor," O&R President and CEO Robert Sanchez said. "We are very proud of her, and that her hard work and dedication have been recognized with this prestigious award."

As dedicated as she is to her work, Siobhán also takes an active role in her community. Her passion for helping people shows in her support for two important causes: improving community mental health resources and expanding local veterans' services. Siobhán is a supporter of NAMI (National Alliance of Mental Illness), the largest grassroots mental health organization, dedicated to building better lives for Americans affected by mental illness.

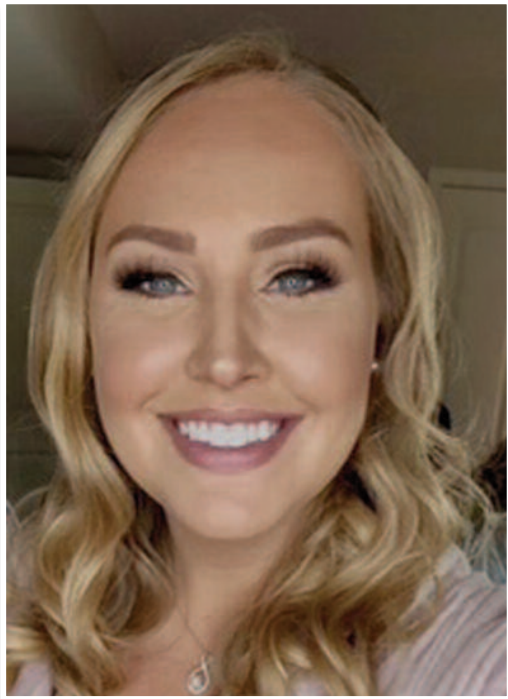
Siobhán also serves as a Vice President of the Con Edison Emerald Society. She plays a significant role as a leader on the executive board, as well organizing and managing Irish heritage events, contributing to the newsletter, and



volunteering.

In her free time, Siobhán enjoys being with her family and friends, especially her son Ronan and husband Dave. She loves to travel, whether it be to Ireland or a weekend getaway to the beach. You can also find her listening to The Narrowbacks, reading her favorite book, "Ask Again, Yes", grabbing a bite to eat at Tavern on Reade or enjoying a Sunday Trad Seisiún at Keane's Bar & Restaurant.

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all your achievements!***

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Jon, Mom, Dad, Ryan, Chris,
Gene, Grandma and Nanny

Chris Keeley

Where you live: Cold Spring, NY.

Place of Birth: Philadelphia, PA.

Age: 39.

Family: Wife: Chris Alice Winward; Son: Colin Keeley; Parents: Jim and Pat Keeley; Siblings: Terri, Jen, Beth, Rose.

First Job: Program Associate at Neighborhood Economic Development Advocacy Project.

What it taught me: To always use plain language and to never talk down.

Current Company and position: Chief Operating Office, Deputy Executive Director, and Acting Director of Trace at NYC Test & Trace Corps; Chief Operating Office, Office of Ambulatory Care, NYC Health + Hospitals.

Best advice you could give someone starting out: Read the news/newspaper for at least 20 minutes every morning, keep your true personality in all situations, and be kind even in the hardest of situations to people on your side of the table and especially those

across from you.

How do you embrace your Irish Heritage? I've embraced the music, the history, the politics and beyond. My first trip abroad as a teenager was to visit my sister while she was volunteering at the Pat Finucane Centre and my first extended trip with my now-wife was to see another of my sisters in Tralee as she competed at the Philadelphia Rose. I'm looking forward to joining the Wolfe Tones on March 16 with the tickets I recently won on WFUV's Ceol na Gael and, most importantly, bringing up my son Colin with the same Irish pride my parents instilled in me.

Chris is Chief Operating Officer of the NYC Test & Trace Corps and Assistant Vice President and Chief Operating Office in the NYC Health + Hospitals Office of Ambulatory Care. He has helped lead the system's COVID-19 response since early March 2020. Through March and April 2020, Chris led the effort to recruit, credential, and deploy thousands of medical providers from across the country so they could support

our patients and staff at the frontlines. In March 2020, he helped build the city's COVID-19 telephone hotline, which served thousands of New Yorkers each day.

Prior to his work in the COVID-19 response, Chris was leading the transformation of the health system's patient referral processes. He will reengage that work as the City finds its way through COVID. He also managed the system's immigration policy efforts, including driving the system's effort to fight against the 'public charge' rule that would harm immigrant patients. He is a key advisor on the citywide implementation of NYC Care, helped transform the system's revenue cycle, expand insurance screening access to uninsured New Yorkers, and recrafted the system's financial assistance programs. Previously, Chris ran a healthcare access program for immigrants while working at the NYC Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs and was responsible for large-scale operations and government affairs at a billion-dollar healthcare start-up. Chris



was a community and political organizer for over 10 years prior to turning his focus to equitable healthcare access for all New Yorkers.

Michael O'Brien

Where you live: Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Place of Birth: Scranton, Pennsylvania.

Age: 37.

Family: Parents: Joseph and Barbara; Siblings: Rosemary (Posie), Chrissy, Katie and James; Nieces/Nephews: Noah, Rose, Abigail, Grace, Caroline, Daniel, Matthew, Joseph, Cecelia, Marie, Ella, Holly, Maggie, James and Charlotte.

First Job: Intern, Lackawanna County Public Defender's Office.

What it taught me: The Public Defender is the office of government attorneys tasked with the representation of criminal defendants who are unable to pay a private attorney. I started when I was 14 years old. It was a fascinating and heartbreaking experience. It opened my eyes - at a young age - to the wide disparity that exists in relation to access to education, employment, and the other opportunities that form the foundation of a healthy and successful life. I realized me how lucky I was to have a healthy and happy family and parents who were focused, consistent and committed to providing their children with social and economic opportunities.

It also drew me into the law. It instilled in me a respect for our judicial system,

the rule of law, and the importance of a fair, impartial, and adversarial process to resolve civil claims and determine the fate of criminal prosecutions.

Current Company and position: Partner, Eckert Seamans Cherin & Mellott.

Best advice you could give someone starting out: First, surround yourself with people you love and admire and who make you want to be a better person. Keep in close touch with your friends and family and make the effort when it comes to relationships with the people you care about. Second, find a career that you're passionate about and one that makes you proud to answer the question "What do you do?" If you're able to do that, early mornings and late nights and weekends at the office don't seem like a burden. Instead, you see this time and effort as an investment in yourself and the people around you. I've been a lawyer for 12 years, and I've enjoyed (almost) every minute. Finally, answer the phone. If you miss a call, return it promptly.

How do you embrace your Irish Heritage? Irish-Americans in the 21st Century have an exciting opportunity to build on the personal and professional networks that have enabled our success over so many years, and to ensure that more recent Irish-Americans are given extended the same ladder of opportunity. In addition, all of us have a role to play in

ensuring Irish-America remains focused on and committed to the Peace Process, and to achieving - in this century - a peaceful, fair, and united Ireland.

Something that people would be surprised to know about me: I read between 2-3 books a week, and have been keeping that pace since I was around 10-12 years old. For a while I was listening to audiobooks, but I've since returned to paperbacks and hardcovers. I recently finished The Wolf Hall trilogy, by Hilary Mantel, which I would highly recommend.

Michael O'Brien is a partner at Eckert Seamans Cherin & Mellott, a law firm with more than 360 attorneys in 15 offices across the United States.

Michael focuses his practice on commercial litigation, corporate counseling, and nonprofit law. Michael represents publicly traded companies, privately held corporations, nonprofit organizations, small businesses, municipalities, and individuals in complex litigation matters before state and federal courts throughout the Mid-Atlantic region.

In addition to his litigation practice, Michael counsels corporations and institutional nonprofits in governance matters.

From 2016-2020, Michael was an



adjunct professor in the School of Business and Global Innovation at Marywood University, where he taught Legal Environment of Business.

In addition to his civilian practice, Michael is a former Army officer and served in the U.S. Army Judge Advocate General's Corps from 2007-2017.

Michael is a graduate of Scranton Preparatory School, Georgetown University, and Temple University Law School.

Erin Houston

Where you live: Philadelphia, PA.

Place of Birth: Wilmington, DE.

Age: 34.

First Job: Barista.

What it taught me: The power of connecting authentically with people. The less transactional business is, the more loyalty you'll build.

Current Company and position: Wearwell, Co-founder + CEO.

Best advice you could give someone starting out: You don't need to have everything figured out, because things probably won't go according to plan! Look

for opportunities where you can learn and grow in a career direction, rather than being prescriptive of your end-goals from the start.

How do you embrace your Irish Heritage? I grew up competing in Irish dance. Not only did it bring me closer to my Irish heritage, but it taught me resilience, persistence, and teamwork in ways that made me who I am today.

Erin co-founded Wearwell after working for a media platform that serves the global development community, where she had the opportunity to build and lead their

partnerships division. During that same time in her life, she earned her Master's in Social Enterprise and focused on sustainable supply chains in the fashion industry. She loves the work she does at Wearwell because a more sustainable fashion industry has the power to positively impact the lives of so many. Other things she loves: cooking, yoga, and daily morning walks with her pup, Ruby. M.A. Social Enterprise, American University SIS, 2015 B.A. English, Government, The College of William & Mary, 2009





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Jessica Foster

Where you live: Girard, Ohio.

Place of Birth: Youngstown, Ohio.

Age: 36.

Family: Husband - Doug Foster.

First Job: working concession stands at Youngstown State University.

What it taught me: To be patient with the public and that nacho cheese comes in a bag!

Current Company and position: Cohen & Company, Senior Manager, Assurance.

Best advice you could give someone starting out: Learn from your mistakes and be open to new opportunities when they arise.

How do you embrace your Irish Heritage? I had the blessing of growing up in the house next door to my 100% Irish Grandfather. Our family always spent St. Patrick's Day together with my grandma playing songs on the piano and saw every Irish performer who ever came to Youngstown. I knew lyrics to Irish songs in the same way I knew songs from the radio

or Church. I went to Saint Mary's College and there had the benefits of the University of Notre Dame - where I literally cheered on the Irish. I have spent time at AOH events and learning about the history of the county. I love all books and movies set in Ireland. In college, during my semester abroad, I organized a trip to Ireland for a group of my friends and was able to do it once again in 2019 with my husband and his sister to embrace our shared Irish culture.

Something that people would be surprised to know about me: I was once selected from the audience to play a Harry Potter Trivia Game on Ellen!

Jessica Foster, the daughter of Dan and Laurie Brinker, was born and raised in Girard, Ohio, where she currently resides with her husband, Doug Foster, and dog, Belle. Jessica attended Saint Mary's College in Notre Dame, Indiana, graduating magna cum laude with a B.A. in Mathematics. After teaching high school mathematics for three years,



she decided to pursue a Master's of Science in Accountancy at The University of Akron in Akron, Ohio. Since graduation, she has become a CPA and has worked at Cohen & Company where she is currently

a senior manager. Her role includes providing attestation and consulting services for privately held clients, training, developing, and supervising staff, and assisting with the Firm's quality control and technical initiatives. In addition to her position at Cohen, Jessica is involved in various professional organizations and currently serves on the AICPA's Women's Initiatives Executive and Student Recruitment Committees and The Ohio Society of CPAs Women's Initiatives Committees. She volunteers her time serving as an officer or board/committee member of various organizations and non-profits including Saint Mary's College Alumnae Association Board of Directors, Alta Care Group, Junior League of Akron, Beatitude House, Youngstown Business & Professional Women, and the United Way of Youngstown and Mahoning Valley. Her past honors include graduating from the AICPA Leadership Academy in 2019, receiving the Junior League of Akron's President Award in 2021, and being a Mahoning Valley Young Professional "25 under 35" Honoree in 2018.

Sarah Cullivan

Where you live: Glendale, New York.

Place of Birth: New York, New York.

Age: 21.

Family: My father, Eugene Thomas Cullivan emigrated to Queens, New York from Butlersbridge, Co. Cavan in 1988. My mother, Patricia Crowley traces her Irish heritage to her grandparents who emigrated from Counties Louth and Cavan. Her father, Walter Crowley, a proud Irish American, served as a member of the Ancient Order of the Hibernians as well as the Cavan P & B Association and shared his love for Ireland with his fifteen children. I have two older siblings Eugene and Maria.

First Job: Playground Associate at the NYC Department of Parks and Recreation.

What it taught me: Spending July and August days outdoors in New York City parks with children taught me patience, delegation skills, the importance of a baseball cap, and the sanctity of SPF 50.

Current Company and position: President of Irish Society at St. John's University, Member of the University's President's Society, and Discover New York Peer Coordinator.

Best advice you could give someone starting out: This is a little tricky, because in some ways I find myself still 'starting out', however, I would say BE TRUE TO YOURSELF.

How do you embrace your Irish Heritage? I am an Irish Citizen through my father. I try to visit Ireland annually to spend time with my grandfather, aunts, uncles and cousins. On Sundays, my family and I listen to WFUV -90.7 Fordham University Irish station. We have marched together in New York City's St. Patrick's Day parade and watch plays at the Irish Repertory Theatre.

Something people would be surprised to know about me: I am blessed with a huge Irish family. I have 52 first-cousins; the perfect number to pack each week on the calendar with a birthday celebration. I'll say nothing on the subject of our family weddings (standing room only).

The youngest of three children, Sarah Cullivan was raised in Glendale, Queens. Sarah attended Sacred Heart Elementary School and Saint Vincent Ferrer High School. She is graduating in May from St. John's University with a degree in Finance and will continue her studies at St. John's anticipating an MBA

in May 2023.

At St. John's, Sarah has achieved excellence, earning a perfect GPA of 4.0 and the university's highest honor, induction into the President's Society. As the President of Irish Society, Sarah hosts and promotes events centered around Irish language, sport, dance, and music. In her role as a Student Ambassador, she represents the university to prospective families and as a Discover New York peer leader, Sarah acclimates new students to life at St. John's. Sarah is also a member of the Finance and Risk Assessment Team of Saint John's University G.L.O.B.E. Microloan Program. Applying her studies to the real world, Sarah has conducted financial examinations and risk analyses on microloan applications from budding entrepreneurs in Guatemala and Vietnam.

In addition to campus activities, Sarah served as a Finance Intern for the New York Mets, collaborating with senior financial analysts on the baseball franchise's 2022 budget. As a Database Management and Marketing Research Intern, Sarah worked with the Irish Legal 100 in planning, promoting, and executing a high-profile event, the Irish Legal Reception in Washington D.C.. Held at the residence of Ireland's Ambassador to the



United States, Hon. Daniel Mulhall, the reception was attended by prominent members of the bench and bar from across the nation, including U.S. Supreme Court Justice Amy Coney Barrett.

In her free time you can find Sarah volunteering at Sacred Heart's gym as a basketball coach or assisting in keeping the score of CYO games.

Michael Lawler

Where you live: Pearl River, NY.

Place of Birth: Nanuet, NY.

Age: 36.

Family: Doina Lawler (wife); Marie Lawler (mother); Kevin Lawler (father, deceased); James Lawler (brother).

First Job: Vendor at Yankee Stadium.

What it taught me: It taught me the importance of hard work, a positive attitude, and enjoying what you do. Interacting with fans throughout the Stadium, it allowed me to let my personality shine through, as well as serve people.

Current Company and position: New York State Assemblyman.

Best advice you could give someone starting out: Stay humble in victory and gracious in defeat. Life will always have its challenges, but through hard work and perseverance, success is always within reach.

How do you embrace your Irish Heritage? I'm a proud member of the AOH Division 3 in Pearl River, New York and am a member of the Irish-American Legislators Society in the New York State Legislature. I will never apologize for being Irish, and am proud of mine and my late father's Irish heritage.

Mike Lawler was elected to the New York State Assembly on November 3, 2020. His district is comprised of the southern portion of Rockland County.

In his first legislative session, Mike was one of the top-5 most successful freshman legislators in the Assembly, passing a half-dozen bills focused on helping his Rockland County constituency.

He was also tied for most bills passed by any member of the Republican Conference in the 2021 legislative session. Mike is a lifelong Rockland County resident and graduate of Suffern



High School. In 2009, he earned a degree in Business Administration with a double major in Accounting and Finance from Manhattan College. His hard work earned

him the distinction of Valedictorian of his graduating class.

Prior to being elected to the Assembly, Mike served as Deputy Town Supervisor in Orangetown under Supervisor Teresa Kenny, and previously worked in the Westchester County Executive's Office as an advisor to Rob Astorino. In those roles, he gained invaluable experience dealing with issues ranging from crafting a disciplined budget to public policy and community outreach initiatives.

Previously, Mike served as Executive Director of the State Republican Party and has helped secure the election of candidates at federal, state, and local levels. In addition to his distinguished public service career, Mike is also a successful small-business owner. He has brought his experience and knowledge from the private sector - he previously founded his own government affairs and public relations firm - to best serve his constituents. Mike and his wife, Doina, live in Pearl River.



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Jennifer Muldowney

Where you live: NYC

Place of Birth: Dublin, Ireland.

Age: 39.

Family: Mom - Olivia, Dad - Gerry and Brother - Stephen.

First Job: Waitress in The Morgue Pub in Templeogue, Dublin, Ireland.

What it taught me: It definitely was a hint at my future career!! I think working in any form of hospitality teaches patience, multitasking, organizational skills, and above all, it teaches you how to 'be' with people.

Current Company and position: Owner of The Glam Reaper LLC which is the umbrella company for Muldowney Memorials, and my cremation jewellery companies - Farewell Celtic Ashes and Rainbow Bridge Memorials and I am also the host of The Glam Reaper Podcast.

Best advice you could give someone starting out: Embrace your weirdness - the thing that makes you you. Everyone will have an opinion on you but if you do what's in your heart and make intuitive decisions then you can't go too far wrong. And keep going! The Struggles are real but everyone has them, even if it appears

otherwise so just keep on trucking.

How do you embrace your Irish Heritage? My Irish cremation jewellery line - Farewell Celtic Ashes allows Irish diaspora around the world to send some of the ashes of their loved ones to our home base in Ireland where we either fuse or encase the ash in hand blown glass and then ship the jewellery back to them. We also offer to scatter some of the remains on Irish soil if they wish for that. In terms of Memorials, The Irish Wake is known the world over and I simply bring an updated version of that to what I do day-to-day when working with families on memorializing their loved ones. We incorporate food and drink into celebrating someone's life and make it as personal to that unique individual as we can.

Something that people would be surprised to know about me: I'm criminally shy. I get fits of giggles when I feel most awkward. Those who have seen it in action know.

From a busy fine dining Irish bar in Washington DC, a marathon in Miami, death in Dublin to hustling in New York, Dubliner Jennifer Muldowney has been inspired every step of the way

when creating her funeral business concept. She is the proud owner and operator of The Glam Reaper LLC specializing in providing unique products and services to help people memorialize their loved ones their way.

Born in Dublin in 1982, Jennifer Muldowney went to college in Dublin City University where she graduated with a Bachelor of Business Studies Degree in 2004. She furthered her education in 2010 with a Wedding Planning Certificate and a PRII accredited Public Relations post-graduate diploma and Event Management post-graduate diploma and again in 2012 with a Digital Communications diploma with Social Media.

She is currently partnered as creative director for the prestigious Frank E. Campbell - The Funeral Chapel in New York City. She is a trained, experienced, and modern memorial planner, with over 10 years of experience in the funeral profession. She is the host of The Glam Reaper Podcast, author of books 'Say Farewell Your Way', 'Say Farewell The Irish Way' and writes a monthly column for the Funeral Times magazine back home in Ireland. She has also been asked to speak on a variety of stages and mediums



including the National Funeral Directors Association, the New York Funeral Directors Annual Convention, The Elaine Show, RTE, Fox News, and most notably her Tedx talk in 2017.

Funerals are her passion, her life and she loves what she does.

Gwen Camp

Where you live: Philadelphia, PA.

Place of Birth: Bryn Mawr, PA.

Age: 39.

Family: Three "little" brothers, two great parents, approximately one million cousins, aunts and uncles.

First Job: Teamsters Trust & Pension.

What it taught me: To be kind when people are facing big change.

Current Company and position: Executive Director of Team Democracy.

Best advice you could give someone starting out: Work hard, exercise the limits of your empathy every day, and manage up.

How do you embrace your Irish Heritage? In the spirit of welcoming anyone without a seat to the table. In celebrating any small victory excessively and laughing hard at any sadness. In keeping friends and family close. In knowing that I'm only here because of all the strength my family laid out for me.

Something that people would be surprised to know about me: We had four generations on one block when the McCabes and Fitzgeralds all got mixed up with one another in Northeast Philly. There's still nowhere I'd rather be than surrounded by those crazy kids, so come find us if you need a friend at Rosie's in February!

Gwen Camp is a voting rights advocate who runs a crisis and political management firm in Philadelphia. She is a frequent academic lecturer and the Executive Director of Team Democracy, spearheading The Election Pledge to protect elections and the peaceful transition of power in the United States.

She has supported many Irish American public servants, notably as the State Director for Senator Bob Casey of Pennsylvania; the Chief of Staff for the Pennsylvania Treasury, which is the custodian of more than \$110 Billion in Commonwealth funds; and as the Political

Director for Patrick Murphy's first Congressional race. She has also served as a Legislative Assistant in the United States and Pennsylvania Houses of Representatives.

She was twice appointed to the Obama Administration, serving as Director of Intergovernmental Affairs and as Director of Individual and Community Preparedness for the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), where she was recognized as the NextGov Bold Innovator in Government in 2014.

Gwen has run workshops throughout the United States, Europe, Asia and Latin America and is a Security Fellow with the Truman National Security Project. She earned her MPA at the Harvard Kennedy School, her BA at Rosemont College and holds certifications in Public Treasury Management in Investment and Pensions (Pepperdine) and Senior Management in Government (Harvard).

Her family comes from County Galway



and her "home" in Ireland is where her mother's mother's mother lived in Athenry, County Galway.

Devlin Robinson

Where you live: Pittsburgh PA.

Place of Birth: Pittsburgh PA.

Age: 38.

Family: Bachelor.

First Job: Lifeguard.

What it taught me: Being a lifeguard at a very busy wave pool not only taught me the typical, show up on time, ready to work, and with a good attitude. It taught me vigilance, at any time someone's world could be in jeopardy. Someone that entrusted you to be mindful over their own or their loved ones safety. At 16 I had to grow up fast and be ready to assist in a wide range of medical issues so continuing education was integral to ensure a positive outcome in an emergency.

Current Company and position: State Senator of Pennsylvania's 37th Senatorial District.

Best advice you could give someone starting out: always be open to learning and keep learning all you can.



How do you embrace your Irish Heritage? My Great grandfather William Leonard Robinson came to this country in 1917 from County Tyrone in order to

ensure he and his descendants could have a better life. He worked hard, he taught his children to work hard, and he taught them that a successful life included service to their family, their community, and their country. I made sure to join the Marines at 18 and have been active in numerous local charities including the Ancient Order of Hibernians and the International Rotary where I have visited clubs in Sligo and Dungannon.

Something that people would be surprised to know about me: I have visited the birthplaces of both of my Irish Great-grandparents. Mary Foley in County Leitrim and William Robinson's in County Armagh. I continuously communicate with my cousins in Ireland and Northern Ireland and have visited with them as well as hosting them in America.

Senator Devlin Robinson was elected in November 2020 to serve residents of the 37th State Senatorial District, which includes parts of Allegheny and Washington counties in

southwestern Pennsylvania.

A native of southwestern Pennsylvania, Robinson was raised in the working-class Brookline neighborhood of Pittsburgh and attended Central Catholic High School. After graduation, he joined the United States Marine Corps – continuing a family tradition of military service dating back four generations.

Following the 9/11 attacks, Robinson requested assignment to the infantry, ensuring him a spot on the front lines. He served one combat tour in Afghanistan and two in Iraq, where as an infantryman in Nasiriyah ("ambush alley") Devlin's unit fought door-to-door to rescue Army POW Jessica Lynch. He also later served in Fallujah.

Upon his honorable discharge, Devlin returned home to Pittsburgh and founded his own company, Veterans Medical Technology. Under the GI Bill, Devlin earned a business degree from Robert Morris University and an MBA from the University of Pittsburgh's Katz School of Business.

Congratulations to Brian Reilly -
A proud descendant of Crossmaglen, for being selected
by the Irish Echo to receive this prestigious honor.



We are all very proud of who you have become
and eagerly await your future
because we know your brightest moments are yet to come.

Brian Reilly

Where you live: Manhattan, NY.

Place of Birth: Manhattan, NY.

Age: 33.

Family: I come from a proud Irish family. My mother is the second youngest of 16 children born to Jack Brennan and Brigid Brennan (nee Martin) of Crossmaglen in South Armagh, my father is one of 5 children born to John Reilly of Cloone, Lietrim and Margaret Reilly (nee Kneafsey).

First Job: Doorman/ Porter at a residential building on 5th Avenue.

What it taught me: It taught me to pay attention to the small details and think on my feet, and that life is a journey, every day you are presented with life lessons you just have to be able to learn from them.

Current Company and position: Halstead Management, Resident Manager.

Best advice you could give someone starting out: to be humble, ask questions, work hard and never be afraid to challenge yourself.

How do you embrace your Irish Heritage? I have always been very proud

of my Irish Heritage, as was the generation before me. I try to embrace the traditions and lessons that were passed down to me and use them in my everyday life. As a kid my mother would keep me and my brother home from school on St. Patrick's and would take us to watch the Parade and when the school questioned why we were absent that day my mother would say "because my boys are Irish, and they should be at the parade" it's due to traditions like that I developed a love for Irish music and even inspired me to fulfill a lifelong dream of becoming a bagpiper. I am proud to say that I can be found Marching up 5th Avenue with the County Armagh Pipers Band leading the Armagh Association up the avenue every year for the past 10 years now.

Brian Reilly was born in 1988, on the Upper East Side of Manhattan. The second son of John Reilly and Barbara Reilly (nee Brennan). Brian comes from a long lineage of building superintendents spanning 4 over generations. His family currently manages 16 luxury properties in NYC and have several cousins working as porters,



doormen and handymen working their way up in the ranks following the family tradition.

Brian has been working in residential buildings for 16 years now and has been managing buildings since he was 22 years old when he got the opportunity to

be a superintendent in Harlem and from there, he never he looked back, he has continued to educate himself and has worked hard to establish himself in his career.

Brian had great mentors in his life his mother's 5 brothers were all superintendents in high end residential buildings in Manhattan, from a very young age Brian would work with them on their summer homes and learn how to repair and build things. They weren't easy at times, but the lessons and values they instilled in him would go on to create the character and strong work ethic that Brian carries with him today.

Brian currently serves as the President of the Scandinavian American Building Managers Guild; he tries to apply those same lessons and work ethic to his leadership of the guild. The organization helps to promote self-betterment of their 200 plus members. They organize networking events with other likeminded industry professional's and leaders and work to find ways to constantly evolve and educate themselves and improve the industry.

Nicholas Smyth

Where you live: Pittsburgh, PA

Place of Birth: Dublin

Age: 38

Family: Parents Ted (former Irish diplomat) and Mary Breasted; Wife Ariana Ornelas Smyth (first generation American); Children Marina (7) and Elena (5); Sisters Sally (37) and Jennifer (35).

First Job: Policy Analyst, U.S. Dept of the Treasury.

What it taught me: Through relentless hard work and persistent coalition-building, it is possible for consumer protection advocates and progressive politicians to overcome entrenched and well-funded opposition, and to pass legislation that significantly improves the lives of American families. The Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act is an example of what we can accomplish if we stick together and outwork Wall Street's lobbyists.

Current Company and position: Pennsylvania Office of Attorney General Assistant Director for Consumer Financial

Protection.

Best advice you could give someone starting out: Work really hard, learn something new every day, don't be afraid to ask questions, and hire and promote people from diverse backgrounds.

How do you embrace your Irish Heritage? I try to visit Ireland every few years (including this coming Summer) and stay in touch with my cousins and aunts and uncles. We obtained Irish passports for both our girls. I was involved in Irish Americans for Biden.

Something that people would be surprised to know about me: In law school I studied immigration law, not consumer finance. I was planning to work on immigration policy until the subprime mortgage crisis spurred my interest in consumer financial protection.

Recruited in 2017 by Attorney General Josh Shapiro to start the nation's first "mini CFPB," Nicholas Smyth manages investigations and litigation of 12 to 15 attorneys involving student lending, mortgages, auto finance, payday lending, debt collection, credit reporting,

debt settlement, scams, and COVID-related price gouging. Working closely with other states and the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB), Smyth's team has obtained over \$328 million in relief for about 110,000 Pennsylvania consumers. Public lawsuits and settlements include Navient (M.D. Pa), Wells Fargo, Equifax, Citibank, Think Finance (E.D. Pa), and Dominion Management (Phila. Ct. Com. Pl.). In June 2019 Smyth testified before the U.S. House Committee on Financial Services about student loan servicing.

Prior to joining the Office of Attorney General, Smyth spent four years as a Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) Enforcement Attorney. He was the fourth employee at the CFPB, having previously worked at the U.S. Department of the Treasury on the team of attorneys that, working closely with Congressional staff, drafted and revised the Consumer Financial Protection Act in 2009-10. In between his stints in government, Smyth was also a Senior Counsel at an auto finance company and



a Senior Associate at Reed Smith. He earned his B.A. and J.D. from Harvard. He was born in Ireland and grew up in Pittsburgh, where he resides with his wife and two daughters.

Mark Desmond

Where you live: New York.

Place of Birth: Cork.

Age: 34.

Family: Son to Humphrey and Noreen who still reside on the family farm outside of Bandon, Cork. One of 6 children including Christina, Terry, Kieran, Daniel and Ronan ranging in ages from 23 to 33. Niece and nephew Mary Kate and Cian. All who still reside at or near the family home. Girlfriend Shauna from Dublin whom I met in New York.

First Job: Growing up on a farm I always had work to do. But my first 'official' job was working on the butcher counter in my local Supervalu in Bandon during secondary/high school.

What it taught me: The value of good customer service. How to be organized and efficient. Working as part of a team even when things are chaotic. Some awesome knife skills that I still use in the

kitchen!

Current Company and position: Vice President with Allied Irish Banks New York office.

Best advice you could give someone starting out: Something I learned early on is to come with solutions, not problems. Your boss will thank you for it and you'll be remembered for the solution and not the bearer of bad news.

How do you embrace your Irish Heritage? Being so far away from home, like many people, keeping in touch with my Irish heritage becomes more important. I have tried to actively contribute to the community in New York including joining the American Irish Historical Society Success in the City Committee and helping to organize events for young professionals while that was in operation. I also regularly attend and contribute to events organized by friends in the wider Irish American including marching in St Patrick's days



parades and completing a number of charity cycles raising funds for CMRF

through the Ireland Funds.

Something that people would be surprised to know about me: I cycled 180 miles across West Virginia, Maryland and Pennsylvania last summer visiting civil war battlefields in those states.

Mark is currently Vice President with Allied Irish Banks New York office, moving to New York in 2016. Marks works on the Syndicated and International Finance team, focusing on investing in U.S. Leverage loans. Prior to that he spent 5 years in AIB's head office in Dublin specializing in restructuring where he joined as an analyst following graduation. Mark holds a BBus (Hons) in Accounting from Cork Institute of Technology, a M.Sc in Finance and Capital Markets from Dublin City University and is a Fellow of the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants. Mark grew up on a dairy farm in Bandon, West Cork being one of 6 children.

Congratulations, Keeley!

We knew when we met you in high school you were already destined for a Top 16 Under 16 and here you are on The 40 Under 40 list! We are so proud of you!

We will still be your biggest supporters when you make The Top 80 Under 80 list! – Love, The Thread



Congratulations Peter !

Everyone in Galway is so proud of you. I'm honored to be on the Board of Celtic Irish American Academy Scholastic with you. Keep up the good work.

Gaillimh abu! John Flaherty



Daniel Roche

Where you live: New York.

Place of Birth: London.

Age: 31.

Family: My parents are both Irish and met in UCC. Like many in the 80s, they emigrated to London for work and had me. We moved back to Dublin when I was 5 and then onto Cork when I was 8 years old where I grew up. After a short stint in New Zealand and now New York, I feel like somewhat of a nomad! On this side of the Atlantic, I have found some new family also - I am due to get married in Florida this summer.

First Job: Hotel Porter.

What it taught me: I was very lucky to have such supportive parents who gave me every opportunity to have a great education. Besides that, I've had some great mentors during my early career from Ian O'Connell and Cathal Friel at Raglan

Capital, to Conor Smyth who I met in New York. All of whom put a lot of effort into developing me. I also have a deep desire to learn and pursued a Master's degree at Trinity College Dublin and my CFAs. I feel both of these academic experiences were essential in expanding my knowledge of finance and also gave me the confidence to speak as a subject matter expert in certain areas.

Current Company and position: I work as a Vice President for a boutique placement agent named TritonLake. We have a global footprint with team members from Singapore to New York. Our primary focus is to raise capital for private equity funds, ranging from \$100-750MM in size, from our club of c. 300 investors. I was lucky to meet Conor Smyth, the Founder, shortly after I touched down in New York and became one of the first employees.

Best advice you could give someone starting out: Don't be afraid to challenge



yourself even if it makes you uncomfortable. If you feel nervous about

client-facing experience, throw yourself in the deep end and learn. You'll surprise yourself!

How do you embrace your Irish Heritage? Missing home and the Irish community, I recently joined the Irish Business Organization in New York to meet new people here. I also practice my Gaeilge ó am go ham.

Something that people would be surprised to know about me: I have a twin sister living in London.

Daniel is a finance professional with experience in capital raising across a number of asset classes and industries. At Raglan Capital, he was a part of the founding team at Open Orphan plc which IPO'ed in London. Following his time at Raglan, Daniel has focused on capital raising for private market funds including LMM buyout, venture capital, growth equity, and real estate.

Colleen O'Riordan

Where you live: Ardmore, PA.

Place of Birth: Philadelphia.

Age: 37.

Family: Husband: Seán O'Riordan; Parents: John and Susan Gallagher Sisters (Spouse): Sheila Sheaffer (Kyle), Catherine Vickers (Jake), Brigid Gallagher, Anne Marie (Stanley), Suzanne (Llull), Bernadette Gallagher.

First Job: Actor, with the Pennsylvania Shakespeare Festival's educational touring company WillPower.

What it taught me: As an educational touring company, we brought Shakespeare into schools and classrooms across the tri-state area. My experience showed me the transformational ability of drama and how storytelling can be a powerful access point for healing trauma. This discovery led me to pursue my MA in Dramatherapy at NUI, Maynooth in Co. Kildare.

Current Company and position: Director, Office of the CEO at FS Investments, a leading alternative asset manager with \$29 billion under management. FS Investments is dedicated to helping

individuals, financial professionals and institutions design better portfolios by providing access to alternative sources of income and growth and setting industry standards for investor protection, education and transparency.

I support the firm's co-founder, Chairman & CEO, Michael Forman including his involvement with various civic initiatives in Philadelphia.

Best advice you could give someone starting out: Leadership is everyone's responsibility. Listen to understand. Don't be afraid to take risks, regardless of the outcome, you'll either win or learn.

How do you embrace your Irish Heritage? Growing up I was always proud to be Irish and understood the journey of my ancestors to America, but when I think about embracing my heritage since marrying my husband, I'm more aware of the responsibilities of raising 1st generation children (when the time comes!) and making sure they know both of the cultures that they come from. Through engagement with Irish community in Philadelphia, participation at Irish cultural events and spending as much time back in Ireland as we can, they will be both Irish and American.

Something that people would be surprised to know about me: I am a classically trained coloratura soprano, but I haven't really performed since graduating college.

Colleen is the oldest of seven girls, born and raised in Haverford, PA. She is a former Philadelphia Rose of Tralee (2007) and earned her MA in Dramatherapy from the National University of Ireland, Maynooth.

After graduating, Colleen returned to the US and worked for seven years in Washington, DC supporting the constituents of Pennsylvania's 7th Congressional district. During that time she became an active member of the Ireland Funds through the Young Leaders program and in 2016, was one of the first women inducted into the Society of the Friendly Son's (and now, Daughters) of St. Patrick in Philadelphia, alongside Irish Amb. Anne Anderson.

Colleen moved back to Ireland in 2018, to work for Irish unified communications company, Blueface as Chief of Staff to the CEO. Blueface is where she met her husband Seán O'Riordan, who was CFO in



the business. When Comcast Business acquired Blueface in 2020 the pair relocated back to Philadelphia post acquisition. Colleen now works at FS Investments as Director, Office of the CEO. In March she will be installed as an officer in the Society of the FSSP.

Clayton McGhan

Where you live: Kailua-Kona, Hawaii.

Place of Birth: Mesa, Arizona.

Age: 38.

Family: Craig (father), Kim (mother), Oyate (wife), Kalolaine, Ela, Uma, Ivi (daughters), and Ammon (son).

First Job: Construction with my father at age 10.

What it taught me: Not to talk back and be thankful for work, no matter what it is.

Current Company and position: Ali'i Health Center-President/CEO.

Best advice you could give someone starting out: Be willing to work at the bottom before the top. Serve others along the way. Be kind and thankful to ALL around you. Don't be afraid to get your hands dirty. Never stop learning.

How do you embrace your Irish Heritage? I embrace my Irish Heritage through my strong convictions and passion for my family, friends, and community. Once I put my mind into

whatever it is I am doing, I fight for it passionately to see it through. I am proud to say my ambition and passion are directly from my Irish heritage. I am fiercely loyal to all I hold dear while keeping the crowd entertained along the way.

Something that people would be surprised to know about me: I am fluent in the Tongan language.

President and CEO of Ali'i Health Center, Clayton McGhan entered the healthcare field from humble beginnings. He started his healthcare journey as a volunteer, handing out blankets and comfort in the emergency department at a community hospital in Kona, on the Big Island of Hawai'i. Rotating as a volunteer into a number of key departments within the hospital, Clayton was noticed by Executive Leadership because of his desire to serve others with kindness and dignity. Clayton was hired at the hospital as the assistant to the Nurse Administrator, eventually



working his way up to the executive assistant to the Regional CEO. Soon after, Clayton was asked to lead Ali'i Health Center, West Hawai'i's largest multi-

specialty healthcare clinic where he currently manages over 35 physicians and providers and over 100 total employees. He is an active member in the community, serving on the Kona Kohala Chamber of Commerce (KKCC) Board of Directors and as the chairman of the Kona Kohala Chamber of Commerce Health and Wellness Committee. Crediting his Irish ancestry, Clayton is proud of his deep connection to the Polynesian people.

Early in his life, Clayton served as a missionary in the Kingdom of Tonga. There, he developed strong bonds with the people because of the cultural similarities between the Irish and Tongans. Both are kind-hearted, religious, frank, and sharp-witted. Clayton earned a Bachelor of Science in Healthcare Administration and a Master of Science in Healthcare Administration from Grand Canyon University. He is currently working towards his Board Certification with the American College of Healthcare Executives.



Ancient Order of Hibernians

Irish Catholic American



Congratulations to the 2022 Top 40 Irish Americans

Members of The Ancient Order of America

- Scott Partika** *Columbus Ohio Division 1 - Office of Governor Mike DeWine – Assistant Policy Director Health and Human Services*
- Kieran Mitchell** *Dutchess NY Division 1 - VP Actuarial Careers, Inc.*
- Devlin Robinson** *Allegheny PA Division 10 - State Senator of Pennsylvania’s 37th Senatorial District*
- Michael Lawler** *Rockland NY Division 3 - New York State Assemblyman*
- Rory McGloin** *Hartford Ct Division 2 - University of Connecticut, Professor of Business Communication, Founder & President, RPM Communication Consulting*

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Cillian Flavin

Where you live: Delmar, NY.

Place of Birth: Cork City, Ireland.

Age: 38.

Family: Both of my parents are from North Kerry. My mother Betty is from Beale Co. Kerry, near Ballybunion, and my father Joe was from Knockane Co. Kerry, just outside Listowel. I grew up in Cork City, the eldest of 4 boys. My brothers are Kyle, Cian, and Liam Óg. Now we are spread around, Kyle lives in Wisconsin, USA, Cian in Nottingham, England, and Liam in Dunfermline, Scotland. I am married to Kate Bliss and have two beautiful daughters Olivia (6) and Isla (3) who are learning all about their Irish heritage and love trips home to Cork and Kerry.

First Job: My first professional job was working for the New York State Assembly as a Committee Assistant to the Assembly's Insurance Committee. My first actual job was probably working over the summer in an Irish College (Irish language summer camp) Coláiste Bhréanainn in Ballybunion Co. Kerry.

What it taught me: That I did not want to conduct research into credit default swaps, subprime mortgages, or any policy matters that were part of the 2008 financial crisis. It also taught me to think hard about what I actually wanted to do. I was always motivated by inequalities in our society, especially economic inequality. I decided that my next job(s) would position me to work to be able to influence in some small way what the

government does to help those in need.

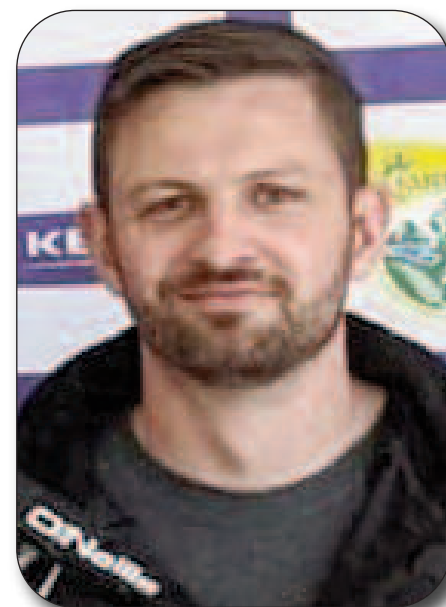
Current Company and position: I am a Deputy Director and part of the Executive Team at the New York State Office of Victim Services. I supervise the Administration & Finance, Training and Outreach, and Grants Units. My primary function is to oversee the administration of state and federal funding that directly supports victims of crime or programs (we fund over 220 programs statewide) that serve victims of crime. I manage a budget of over \$200 million that we try to use as best we can to meet the needs of victims of crime in New York. Supporting the amazing work these programs do is very rewarding and is something I am very proud to be part of.

Best advice you could give someone starting out: Think about what you want to get out of your career and what matters to you. Then try to find a way to get experience in that field so you can move into positions where you can make an impact and have your opinion count.

How do you embrace your Irish Heritage? I am obsessed with Gaelic Football and was one of the founding members of the Albany Rebels Gaelic Athletic Association ten years ago. I recently relinquished my long standing role as chairperson but I am still one of the Directors of the club and am involved directly with both playing and organizing. Going strong after ten years is something we are very proud of. We have introduced many Americans to the sport and many of them remain involved and have developed

their own passion for our national game. We are hoping to finally have our own field completed in the next year or two and to continue to grow the sport and provide more opportunities for participation. I also am involved and am a member of a number of local organizations here beyond Gaelic Games, The Capital District Celtic Cultural Association (Celtic Hall), and the Capital District Irish American Association (CDIAA). We also work quite a bit with the local Hibernian Hall Chapters and have a special affinity for other cultural groups locally like the Conradh na Gaeilge Craobh Chumar an Dá Uisce and the local Irish American Heritage Museum.

Something that people would be surprised to know about me: I am very afraid of scary movies!!!! I will watch them and not sleep properly for days



Cillian Flavin is from Cork City, Ireland and has lived in the U.S. since 2006. He currently lives in Delmar, NY and works at New York State Office of Victim Services in Albany, NY as a Deputy Director. He attended University College Cork and received a BSc in Government and Public Policy, and then moved to the U.S. to attend The College of St. Rose in Albany NY where he received a MA in American History and Political Science. He was one of the founding members of the Albany Rebels Gaelic Athletic Association in Albany, NY and is very proud of the development of the game in the Capital Region. They just

added a hurling team in their tenth year of existence and Cillian is involved as a player at both hurling and football and as a Director of the club. The professional accomplishment he is most proud of was his nomination as Deputy Director at the New York State Office of Victim Services where he manages federal funds that are used to assist victims of crime. He is the proud father of two beautiful (and sassy) daughters and enjoys regularly bringing them home to Cork and to visit family in Kerry. His favorite thing to do is to watch the senior Kerry football team, his passion from football having been passed down by his father.

Andy Collins

Where you live: Upper West Side, Manhattan.

Place of Birth: Elphin, County Roscommon.

Age: 39.

Family: Wife Rina. Sons Rian (5) and Aedan (3) and daughter Nessa (8 months).

First Job: Collecting glasses at my local bar at 14.

What it taught me: At times an eye-opening experience, I saw firsthand the important role people skills and enthusiasm can play in a successful working environment, traits I have tried to take with me throughout my career, with the added bonus of helping me in some tense situations!

Current Company and position: President and Co-Owner at Book Nook Enrichment.

Best advice you could give someone starting out: Keep the head down, stay focused and bet on yourself - you'll be surprised how far you get!

How do you embrace your Irish Heritage? I am heavily involved with Manhattan Gaels and managed the team to a Junior Championship in 2018. Currently, I am helping set up a youth program with the aim of creating an ongoing underage Gaelic games program in Central Park for both Irish and non-Irish children. I am also a regular attendee at both the Irish Rep and the Irish Arts Center, a great excuse to get out of the house!

Andy Collins is the President at Book Nook Enrichment, an early education center with three Manhattan locations. A native of Elphin,



Co. Roscommon, Andy came to NYC in 2006 settling quickly into the bustling hospitality industry. Armed with this hospitality and operations background, Andy has helped solidify operational structure which has helped Book Nook expand from 1 to 3 locations in 4 years. As with many small businesses, Book Nook was hit hard by the closures from the pandemic. With a positive outlook, Andy was able to see a potential growth opportunity and built a digital platform which has allowed Book Nook to reach new customers both nationally and overseas. 2022 has seen a very positive start for Book Nook, with the company starting east coast franchising which will hopefully see large growth in the coming years. He is an avid reader who enjoys story time with his three young children who are following in his footsteps.

JJ Hester

Where you live: Magnolia, Delaware.

Place of Birth: Newark, NJ.

Age: 37.

Family: Married to my wonderful wife Brittany and loving our 3 year old son Parker.

First Job: Shop Rite Cashier.

What it taught me: It taught me how to work hard, stay organized, and how to interact with so many people, both happy customers and unhappy ones.

Current Company and position: I work as a school teacher in Maryland public schools and I also own and operate my own Irish dance school, Hester Academy of Irish Dance.

Best advice you could give someone starting out: Take at least one business course in college to understand the ins and outs of owning and operating your own business.

How do you embrace your Irish Heritage? I embrace my Irish Heritage

through the teaching of Irish dance and I travel around the world as an Irish dance competition adjudicator.

Something that people would be surprised to know about me: I started Irish dance lessons at the age of 16.

JJ Hester was born and raised in Newark, NJ. He comes from a large family, including many who went on to be competitive Irish dancers like himself. He started taking Irish dance lessons with the Peter Smith School in NJ at age 16. He went on to win multiple regional solo titles, place in the top 3 of the North American Championships, and medal in the World Championships. Additionally, although he could not do the tour, he received a contract offer from Riverdance. He currently operates his own Irish dance school in Delaware. He is a certified TCRG (Irish dance teacher) and ADCRG (Irish dance adjudicator). In addition to being involved in the Irish dance world, JJ is a middle school physical education and health teacher.





Congrats to Chris Keeley

So proud of our
"Chip" off the
old block...

Congratulations....
*We love you.
Mom and dad*

Congrats to **Chris Keeley**

*Sandwiched
in between
Two and two
the Bear of
our family.*

So proud of you...
Love, Piggy, Rosie,
Lambie, and Roo



Lauren Stafford

Where you live: New York City.

Place of Birth: New York City.

Age: 28.

Family: Desmond Stafford- father; Diane Stafford- mother; Megan Stafford- sister; Alex Levitz- fiancé (very soon to be husband).

First Job: Pintale's Pizzeria.

What it taught me: To be hard working and diligent. That even when the days seem long, hard, and frustrating it will all be worth it in the end.

Current Company and position: Our Lady Of Fatima Catholic Academy in Jackson Heights, NY, Middle School Science Teacher Grades 6-8.

Best advice you could give someone starting out: Always remember to try your best. Listen to your advisors and grow from the experience. Be positive, even when things seem chaotic and impossible. The more faith you have in yourself, the more confident your work will portray.

How do you embrace your Irish Heritage? My grandfather was from Ireland and my grandmother's side was from Ireland as well. They made me so proud to be Irish when we would dance and sing songs from various Irish artists, especially The Wolfe Tones. Every year I try to incorporate Irish traditions into my

classroom. I embrace my heritage by passing along Ireland's history and stories to the future generations, even though I teach science. Every Sunday I listen to WFUV.org Ceol na nGael with my parents and sister and it helps me stay up to date on what's occurring in Ireland. I even have multiple family members who live in Ireland that I love and adore and went to visit a few years ago. I hope to travel there again soon to see them and learn even more about my heritage.

Something that people would be surprised to know about me: I have a collection of rare Goofy (from Disney) figurines and I love to collect valuable items.

Lauren Stafford is 28 years old and from New York City. She is currently teaching middle school science at Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Academy in Queens. She has always had a passion for learning and science since she was a young girl. She is dedicated to her faith and to the Catholic Church. After she completed her BA she immediately enrolled in graduate school and received her MSED for education. While working on getting her degrees at university she worked several tedious jobs. It was all worth it in the end when she landed her dream job as a full time classroom teacher. She instills a love of learning



upon her students as her mentors had done for her. Teaching during a global pandemic was one of the most challenging tasks Lauren had to endure. Keeping her students positive during these dark times was overwhelming, but she made it as fun and educational as she could for them at Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Academy. She thanks her phenomenal principal and mentor Mrs. Rogers for bestowing the honor of being a part of her wonderful faculty. Through her guidance and mentorship, Lauren has learned various new effective teaching techniques and methods. She would also

like to thank the hard working faculty and staff at Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Academy for being so supportive.

She is currently engaged to her high school sweetheart Alex and is excited to be getting married to him next year. He is her true soulmate and the love they share is unbreakable. She thanks him for always being so supportive and loving throughout all of these years. All of her hard work and dedication she owes to her loving parents. Her father is an NYPD officer who has been dedicated to his job for many years. He always told her that if she works hard in life, she'll achieve success.

Her mother is a registered nurse who taught her to always have confidence and to never lose hope. She taught her valuable life lessons that she takes with her every day, even when teaching. Her mother truly inspired her to be the teacher that she is today. She thanks her parents for everything she has ever achieved in her life. Her older sister has always been by her side since the very beginning and has always held her hand along the journey. She loves her very much. Without her friends, family, and fiancé she wouldn't be the strong and dedicated woman that she is today. Lauren is extremely honored to be one of the honorees in this special occasion and congratulates all of the other honorees as well.

Kieran Mitchell

Where you live: Dutchess County, New York.

Place of Birth: Somers, New York.

Age: 26.

Family: I am the son of Denise & Brian Mitchell. Youngest of three- my older siblings are Caitlin and Connor. I am not married...yet! But hope to have my own family someday.

First Job: Actuarial Recruiter.

What it taught me: This job taught me how to sink or swim professionally. Being 100% commission, and in an environment where most employees are largely autonomous after the initial training, it required me to be highly organized and establish individual benchmarking to be as successful as possible. There was no one else to hold me accountable. Furthermore, it taught me that an individual is responsible for the potential they could reach. Being in an environment where I could either flounder because no one held my hand, or flourish by expecting the most out of myself, it taught me that in this world we can achieve almost whatever we want by setting actionable steps towards that end goal.

Current Company and position: Company: Actuarial Careers, Inc. Position: Vice President.

Best advice you could give someone starting out: Take the time to realize how much possibility lies in front of you. Identify where you want to be in life or the changes you want to see around you, and define actionable steps to reach those goals. Human capital is the most important asset you can ever possess in life. Be selfless, and surround yourself by other selfless people who support you to achieve the most you can in life. These are the people you can call on when you need help, and those who you would be happy to help if they call on you for assistance. Be an active member of your local community, and promote nothing but

positive impacts on that community. Professionally speaking- find a job that is a blend of satisfying the financial requirements necessary to lead a comfortable life that is also something you are passionate about. If you don't succeed in finding this right away with your first job, use it as a stepping stone to find that job which makes sense for you. Money is not everything. Pursue what makes you happy.

How do you embrace your Irish Heritage? I embrace my Irish heritage in a variety of ways. Although distantly removed from Ireland (my mother's side of the family came to America on the Mayflower, my great grandparents on my father's side immigrated in the early 20th century from Ireland), my family and I maintain our deep Irish roots and celebrate this heritage. Since I was in middle school, I took a steep interest in trying to find the time to study the Irish language with no pressure from my family, was innately drawn to traditional Irish folk music, Irish history, etc. I took every opportunity in school to write papers on Irish mythology or history when I could. So when the opportunity was presented to me in 2019 to be a co-founder of the Dutchess County Gaelic Athletic Association, I had no hesitation. Now, the GAA is the chief outlet into which I pour my devotion to my Irish heritage. I helped establish some of the first Irish language courses in Dutchess County and connecting our area to most local Gaelic League, I coach/play Gaelic Football, and generally promote our Irish culture to the local community.

Something that people would be surprised to know about me: I am generally fascinated with family lineage, specifically my own. Something I have always been interested in, is guessing someone's heritage based on their last name the first time I meet them. As one might guess with lineage being so interesting to me, taking care of my family and loved ones is the most important

thing to me above anything else.

Kieran was born in 1995 in Somers, NY. At four years old, his family moved up to Dutchess County, NY. Between both sets of grandparents, he was fortunate to be able to visit homes on vacation in North Carolina, the Adirondacks, and East Durham/"The Irish Alps" in the Catskills. Kieran spent considerable time with all his grandparents growing up, and is fortunate to still be able to spend a lot of time with his grandparents as 3/4 are still alive. This upbringing helped shape his life and understanding of his heritage. Despite having deep American roots but predominantly Irish blood, Kieran's family always remembered their Irish background. Kieran learned from a very young age, the importance of volunteering/community service. Specifically, volunteering his time as a young teenager with retired Marines or widowed Marine wives in North Carolina. This drastically shaped Kieran's outlook on life and the importance of being an active member of one's local community, which has stuck with him to this day. Kieran is a board member of two local non-profits in Dutchess County (The Dutchess County GAA & The Tymor Park Scholarship Fund) as well as a member of a few other non-profits.

Kieran graduated from Arlington High School in 2013 as an AP Scholar with Honor. Kieran attended Dutchess Community College for one year, before transferring to SUNY New Paltz, graduating early in 2016 and completing his MBA from SUNY New Paltz in 2019.

In 2016, Kieran began his career as an Executive Recruiter with Actuarial Careers, Inc, rising to Vice President by 2020 where he is still employed today.

Having joined his local AOH in early 2019, Kieran met many influential Irish/Irish American members of his community that would change his life forever. When Kieran was asked to join



the co-founding board of the first GAA to exist in Dutchess County, he jumped on the opportunity. Kieran joined as the club's first Secretary as well as the Games Promotion Officer. Through his hard work establishing strong relations with local recreation departments, school districts, and advertising campaigns, Kieran grew the numbers of Gaelic Football players in the Dutchess County GAA from 0 to 100 youth players in present day, and 0 to 40 adult players. The Dutchess County GAA has bridged a general cultural gap to provide an outlet for the local Irish community to celebrate its heritage. The first "Dutchess County Irish Fest" was hosted in 2021 at the Dutchess GAA's home at Tymor Park in Union Vale, NY where over 1,000 attendees came for the festivities, featuring the well-known band, Shilelagh Law.

Kieran currently resides in Dutchess County where he continues his job as an Actuarial Recruiter, and is a very active member of his local community promoting traditional Irish culture everywhere he goes.



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Scott Partika

Where you live: Columbus, Ohio.
Place of Birth: Youngstown, Ohio.
Age: 31.
Family: Wife (Kristie); Son (Donovan, 3); Daughter (Delaney, 1); Parents (Randy & Christeen (O'Connell) Partika); Siblings (Annie, Abbey, and Emily Partika).
First Job: Greenskeeper.
What it taught me: It taught me that respecting your colleagues, truly valuing their insights, and expressing your gratitude for their work will help you find more success through those meaningful relationships you develop. Whether you are replacing a broken sprinkler on the 17th fairway or crafting a piece of legislation, that has always held true.

Current Company and position: Office of Governor Mike DeWine - Assistant Policy Director, Health and Human Services.

Best advice you could give someone starting out: Work with people who inspire and motivate you each and every day. It will undeniably improve your own performance and success over the course of your career. Not to mention it will also improve your overall happiness and well-being, which could never be discounted.

How do you embrace your Irish Heritage? I embrace my heritage through my love and appreciation for Irish music. Not only are my

Spotify playlists filled with every type of Irish music from The Dubliners to We Banjo 3, but Central Ohio is blessed with a very robust Irish music scene, providing live entertainment options for myself, family, and friends to enjoy together year-round.

I have served as President of our local Ancient Order of Hibernian division, who operate Tara Hall in Columbus - Which has live music every Friday night and provides a wonderful, friendly, Irish pub experience for all. I also perform as a folk guitarist, and on occasion have been blessed to share the stage with some phenomenal Irish musicians here in Central Ohio.

Something that people would be surprised to know about me: I intended on only stay in my first job with the Ohio Senate for a year or two, with full intentions of going back to school and pursuing a Graduate Assistant position in the field of sports media in pursuit of my dream of becoming a professional sports broadcaster. However, I fell in love with policy work and never looked back.

Scott resides in Columbus, Ohio with his wife Kristie and two children Donovan (3) and Delaney (1). Currently he serves as Assistant Policy Director for Ohio Governor Mike DeWine, covering Health and Human Services. He is an active member, and former President, of the local Ancient Order of Hibernians Patrick Pearse Division.

Scott was born in Youngstown, Ohio, as

the oldest of four children, with three younger sisters. He attended Capital University in Columbus, Ohio, where he was a member of the Crusaders golf team and worked in the Sports Information Department. Graduating with majors in Public Relations and Public Administration, Scott began his career working as a Legislative Aide in the Ohio Senate. During this time, he staffed the Ohio Senate Health and Human Service committee and Joint Medicaid Oversight Committee. It was through this work that he developed a passion for working to improve the healthcare system to better serve those most in need. Through this work he was able to establish strong relationships across the State of Ohio with members of the greater healthcare community and successfully advanced policy that expanded healthcare coverage and access to Ohioans, brought additional transparency to the healthcare supply chain, and expanded the scope of practice for health professionals.

Scott then spent several years working in the private sector in state policy and legislative affairs for CareSource, a nonprofit health insurer based in Dayton, Ohio.

In December of 2020, Scott returned to public sector work to serve as Assistant Policy Director for Ohio Governor Mike DeWine, covering Health and Human Service issues and working alongside colleagues at the Department of Medicaid,



Health, Developmental Disabilities, Mental Health and Addiction Services, Aging, Veteran Services, Jobs and Family Services, and Insurance.

Scott is an active member of the local Irish community serving as former President of the local Ancient Order of Hibernians Patrick Pearse Division and Board Member for Tara Hall, a local nonprofit music hall supporting live Irish music in Columbus, Ohio. On occasion, you may even catch him performing on stage as folk guitarist playing a large array of Irish music with some of Central Ohio's most incredible Irish music performers.

Matthew Ellis

Where you live: Brooklyn, NY.
Place of Birth: Yonkers, NY.
Age: 38.
Family: I met my wife, Donna Choi Ellis, at my current school network 8 years ago. We have two sons: Jameson Choi Ellis, who is 2 and a half, and Noel Hwang Ellis, who is 4 months old. My parents are both from the Bronx, NY, very close to where I grew up in the Bronx/Yonkers border. I am the middle of 3 boys; my older brother lives in Cape Cod with his wife and 2 sons, my younger brother lives in Mahopac, NY, with his wife.

First Job: Caddie at Leewood Golf Club.
What it taught me: I learned: - the importance of being on time, even when that is 6am on Saturday and Sundays - how to interact with different people, different personalities and different expectations for what they wanted - how important it is to treat all people with respect, even those that are in more of a service role (unfortunately I learned that from seeing positive examples and experiencing negative ones).

Current Company and position: Brooklyn Prospect Charter School - Principal of Clinton Hill Middle School.

Best advice you could give someone starting out: This is specific to those who are starting out in education: 1. Be okay with not

being great right away. Keep going at it every day anyway. 2. Teaching is a hard job. Don't let the one or two negative moments you will inevitably experience take away from the 90 other positive ones you'll have. 3. Find people who are positive, speak positively of children and peers, and push through challenges. Stick by them and avoid people who do not seem to be in it for the right reasons.

How do you embrace your Irish Heritage? I grew up in Woodlawn, NY, one of the largest Irish and Irish American communities in the country, and always felt drawn to my Irish roots. I may be 4 generations removed from Ireland, but have always felt pride in researching the origins of the "Cregan" family. I've always took extra interest in learning about Irish history and embracing Irish poets and writers. As an English major who studied abroad at UCD for a semester, the first class I signed up for was an Irish poets and playwrights course. Currently, as a leader of a school that is intentionally diverse, I am proud to share parts of my Irish culture with my students and peers, whether it's bringing in food, telling them about the difference between Irish football and American football, or sharing about my time studying abroad in Ireland.

Something that people would be surprised to know about me: I am a recovering picky-eater, trying to make progress, but still often stuck in my stubborn ways from youth. An



example of this is that I was convinced I didn't like pizza for the first 20 years of my life. As a junior in college, I realized how wrong I was. There have been numerous examples like this over the years, but there are still some staples I will hold onto as never liking or wanting to eat, such as peanut butter, pickles, mayonnaise, tuna fish, etc. etc.

Matthew has 16 years of New York City education experience and is currently the principal of Clinton Hill Middle School, part of the Prospect Schools network in Brooklyn, NY. He started his career as a New York City Teaching Fellow, teaching 10th

grade English at a high school in the Bronx for six years. From there he worked at the nonprofit Futures and Options, supporting high school students around the city as they started internships at various companies, before joining Prospect Schools in 2013. Matt worked for six years as the Director of Youth Development and School Culture at BPCS High School before serving two years as Principal in Residence at Clinton Hill Middle School, with a six-month stint as interim principal in the Spring of 2020.

He grew up in Woodlawn, NY, on the Yonkers/Bronx border, attending Boston College and has always been a committed lifelong student, earning two Master's degrees for education from Lehman College and Baruch College, completing two year-long principal training programs through The New Teacher Project and Relay Graduate School of Education, and is on his way to gaining certification as a school building leader through St. Joseph's College.

Throughout his career Matt has always believed in a holistic approach to educating students, getting to know them as individuals and finding ways to spark their passion. Over the years he has accomplished this through service trips with students, coaching basketball and softball, running video game clubs, empowering interns to be successful, and focusing on getting to know each student in his classroom.

Owen Ring

Where you live: New York City.
Place of Birth: Cork, Ireland.
Age: 27.
Family: I'm the eldest of three children. My parents, Patrick & Deborah Ring are both home in Cork. My sister Alison is working for VMware in Dublin, and the youngest Cathal is in his 3rd year of Undergrad in Commerce at UCC. Special shoutout to my Nana Christina Barrett, who just turned 90 and wrote her first book.
First Job: Worked in a coffee shop in the Cork University Maternity Hospital.
What it taught me: It taught me the value of sacrifice, accountability, patience, and how to make a mean BLT.
Current Company and position: Account Executive at Celonis.

Best advice you could give someone starting out: To not be afraid to go against the grain. It's ok to be unsure of where you want to end up; what's more important is taking the first step and doing so with conviction. Focus on small wins because they add up quickly.

How do you embrace your Irish Heritage? I try to embody what it means to be Irish by simply doing my best to make every interaction I have with people a positive and enjoyable one.

Something that people would be surprised to know about me: I have a goal to visit all 50 US states; my next trip is in April to Nashville Tennessee, which will be my 20th State.

Owen Ring, 27, was born and raised in Cork, Ireland. Owen lives and works in New York City and is entering his

5th year in the United States.

Currently, Owen works as a Key Account Executive for Process Mining and Execution Management Technology company; Celonis. Operating out of the 87th floor of One World Trade Center, he is a leader in the firm's Banking, Financial Services, and Insurance practice.

During his tenure in the U.S., Owen has worked as an Account Manager and Analyst for the Global Manufacturer, Flex, and held various positions within Celonis, ranging from Team Lead in the Business Development organization to Individual Contributor in the Sales function.

Owen holds a BSc in Finance from University College Cork and an MS in Information Systems Engineering and Management from Harrisburg University of Science & Technology.



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Terence Cullen

Where you live: Forest Hills, New York.

Place of Birth: Long Island, New York.

Age: 31.

Family: I live in Forest Hills with my wife, Rebecca, whom I met in graduate school, and our 5-year-old dog, Ellie.

First Job: Reporter, Queens Courier.

What it taught me: Don't write a story until you've tried to speak with everyone. That's as much a lesson about life as it is about journalism. As your career and life go on, you find yourself in situations that require you to make decisions or statements that could really impact a community. I learned that you need to hear from as many experiences as possible before you jump to a conclusion.

Current Company and position: New York Building Congress, Director of Communications.

Best advice you could give someone starting out: Do good work and don't sweat the small things. When you're starting out, there's a lot of pressure to

rise quickly and lead the pack. But opportunities only come when you're focused on the job you have, not when you're thinking about the job you want. You'll get there. Just do the best job you can every day and make sure you take time for you.

How do you embrace your Irish Heritage? My family came here in the 1860s during the Great Hunger, with my great-great grandfather joining the Union Army during the Civil War. Those experiences have stuck with me as an Irish-American in New York City. In my personal and professional life, I have sought to work against the kind of hatred and abuse of power my ancestors experienced on both sides of the Atlantic. As Irish Americans I believe we have a duty to work against hate of any kind and promote understanding among people.

Something that people would be surprised to know about me: I have a tattoo of James Joyce on my shoulder blade, which I got after reading a Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man.



Terence Cullen is the Director of Communications for the New York Building Congress, a broad-based membership organization that represents approximately 500 firms.

A reporter by training, he began his

career at the Queens Courier covering the borough he's called home for more than 25 years. He also worked as a real estate reporter for the Commercial Observer, where he focused on development, public agencies and economic policy. Terence also worked at the New York Daily News, where he covered everything from metro news to national politics.

Terence went on to work as the Communications Director for former City Council Member Costa Constantinides. He oversaw the messaging and press strategy for the Climate Mobilization Act and the Renewable Rikers Act, two nation-leading environmental legislation packages. He was later a key advisor Constantinides' campaign for Queens Borough President in 2020, specializing in communications and policy.

At the New York Building Congress, Terence advocates for investments in the city and state's built environment. Last year, he oversaw production of a commemorative, 400-page book and a televised documentary that celebrated the 100th anniversary of the New York Building Congress.

Peter Fahy

Where you live: New York.

Place of Birth: Co. Galway.

Age: 35.

Family: Parents are Brian and Deirdre Fahy, Fiancé to Lauren, sisters are Johanna and Catherine and elder brother to Bryan.

First Job: My first job was as a barman at The Hole in The Wall Bar, Eyre Street, Galway.

What it taught me: I learned the values of hard work and I gained an insight into how a successful business should be managed. I saw how creating a good customer experience is essential for business and I experienced how to optimize every resource a business has to offer. My father 'trained me in' on every aspect of the trade and I learned that if you are well motivated and a good listener, your chances of attaining business goals are increased accordingly.

Current Company and position: Current Company is Allied management. My position in this company is proprietor & General operating manager.

Best advice you could give someone starting out: Advice is relative and never 'the gospel'. I would encourage people younger than me to follow whatever dream that you have. This will keep you relatively happy and better able to balance the many challenges that you are likely to encounter.

How do you embrace your Irish Heritage? My Irish Heritage plays a major part in my life. I grew up in a very traditional family and the values of being a proud Irish person have always been part of my DNA. Gaelic games, football and hurling, were a major part of our lives growing up in Galway and both my brother Bryan and I continued to play Gaelic football competitively in New York. As teenagers, all of our family spent part of each summer in the Connemara Gaeltacht at An Ceathru Rua and we developed a love for Irish customs and traditions, especially the Irish Language.

I now try to incorporate a "cupla focal" or a few words of Gaelic into my conversation whenever the opportunity arises as Irish is very much "a living language" even in New York. Apart from having some traditional Irish fare on our food and drinks menu at St. Pats Bar we try to support and promote clubs and organizations that embrace the Irish Heritage and St. Pats has developed into a key meeting place in Mid Town "for all things Irish."

For the last number of years, I am a Director of CIAA Scholastic, a United States based company that supports the mission of sending High School Students to Ireland during the summer. In supporting this I am trying to secure and enhance the wonderful values of what it means to have Irish and American Heritage for the future generations.

Something that people would be surprised to know about me: To be perfectly honest, I have nothing 'to declare' here. I could probably be best described as an open book in this regard and basically what you see is what you get.

Peter was born in Galway, Ireland and spent his earliest years in Newbridge, County Kildare where his parents were posted and living at the time. One of four children, his family relocated to Galway when he was four. They lived for a few years in Renmore before eventually moving West to Salthill and this is where he spent all of his formative years. His parents, Brian and Deidre, still live in the family abode at Salthill, while the eldest sibling Johanna lives in Moycullen, County Galway, with husband Paul and children Ellen and Finn. Catherine, elder by just a few years, lives in Corofin, County Galway, with husband Brian and their two sons John and Hugh. Youngest of the clan is Bryan, and he lives with his wife Jeanette in Queens, New York.

The two brothers are very close (while having the occasional spat) and are a

wonderful support to each other since undertaking their US Venture a few years ago. Peter and his fiancée Lauren Schmidt from New Jersey, live in Manhattan, where Lauren is a schoolteacher. They enjoy the great buzz of living in the city and also are frequent visitors to Ireland. Peter travelled extensively through Europe, The Southern Hemisphere and The United States before eventually settling in New York in 2012.

He has an outstanding track record in business and in sport. While in Ireland he was a member of Salthill Knocknacarah Gaa club and he represented his club at all levels in



football and was voted the senior player of the season in 2011. He has represented his county in minor and under 21 Gaelic football and the Galway City schools and Liam Mellows club in hurling. A keen golfer (though unable to outscore his younger brother Bryan), he also played rugby in the back division for

National University of Ireland Galway in the 2010/11 season. He has represented the Leitrim NY Gaelic football team and was a key member of their all-conquering New York Championship winning team in 2012. Peter has represented Dublin football club in New York and was a key player on the NY Irish soccer team who were winners of the 2019 Cosmopolitan Championship.

He has been a vital supporter of the Celtic Irish American Academy since its inception and a patron of scholarship opportunities for young people to study and visit Ireland. He views the promotion of this Academy as a key player in the progression of the Irish American connection for future generations.

Peter started working for the Allied Management Company ten years ago and has progressed to becoming a partner in one of its most successful establishments. He is now proprietor general manager of the very successful St. Patricks Bar and Grille in Mid-Town Manhattan. Under his watch, St. Pats is fast establishing itself as an iconic landmark for great company and excellent food and drink. It is a meeting place for local and international business people, tourists from all corners of the world and a frequent peppering of the 'old stock' from back home.

In addition, Peter has secured St. Pats as home base for Auburn College Football Club Alabama, The NFL football team - Jacksonville Jaguars Florida, and Glasgow Celtic Supporters Club NY. Recently the Irish Business Organization New York held a major function in St. Pats, led by their new President and fellow Galway man, Paul Finnegan.

One of Peter's plans for the 2020s is to cultivate the enormous potential of the Irish American business diaspora in the Big Apple. He recognizes the many opportunities that this network presents for the Irish American communities on both sides of the Atlantic and is very keen to progress some of his plans regarding this.

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