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VOICE

*Most  
Influential  
Women  
2010*



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# Wonder Women

**W**ELCOME to our third annual Most Influential Women issue of the *Irish Voice*, when we pay special tribute to Irish American women who make the world go round in so many different ways.

It's always a particular pleasure to work on this project because of the vast scope and achievements of our nominees. So many trace the roots of their success to the Irish families who came before them, and the many sacrifices that were made so that successive generations could enjoy the fruits of all that hard work.

What's especially impressive about our honorees is the deep pride that they hold in their Irish roots, even if the connection is several generations back. Most of our 67 nominees have traveled to Ireland to connect with their pasts, and in so doing discovered a solid blueprint for how to live their lives going forward.

Whether it's ownership of vital Irish American community businesses, a

dedication to Irish culture, or success in some of the country's most renowned corporations, our Most Influential Women have done it all, and will no doubt inspire future leaders to keep climbing the ladder to even greater heights.

It's often been said that it's a man's world, but our honorees thoroughly put paid to that outdated notion of male superiority. And they've done so the old fashioned way — education, hard work and laser-like focus, with a healthy dose of Irish American pride for good measure.

A sincere thank you to all who have continued to support our annual Most Influential Women issue. And congratulations to all of our honorees for 2010. Each one of you is a credit to yourself, your families and your Irish heritage.

Debbie McGoldrick  
Senior Editor  
*Irish Voice*

## where will they lead us?

True leaders are driven by purpose alone. The women selected by the Irish Voice as exemplifying excellence in business and the Irish community are true leaders. We congratulate them, with special recognition to PricewaterhouseCoopers' Sarah E. McEneaney, one of the 2010 recipients of the 50 Most Influential Women award.

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**ANN ANDERSON**

AMBASSADOR Anne Anderson is the permanent representative of Ireland to the United Nations. Until her appointment last fall, Anderson was Ireland’s ambassador to France since July 2005, and concurrently since January 2007, as non-resident ambassador to Monaco. Anderson, a native of Clonmel, Co. Tipperary, entered the Irish Department of Foreign Affairs in 1972 and has held posts in various parts of the world, including Washington, D.C., Geneva and Brussels. From 2001 to 2005, Anderson served as permanent representative to the European Union in Brussels, before which she was Ireland’s

permanent representative to the United Nations in Geneva, where her responsibilities also included chair of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights (1999-2000); vice president of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) (1997); and chair of the trade policy review body the World Trade Organization. Anderson earned a bachelor’s degree from University College Dublin, and a diploma in legal studies at Kings Inns, Dublin.

“I feel a tremendous sense of privilege in representing Ireland abroad. At the UN, there is real respect for what we stand for,” Anderson says.

“Ireland is seen as a country that struggled, survived, prospered, and understands the imperative to give back. We are a strong and principled voice on all the big issues — development, disarmament, human rights. I am proud to sit behind the Irish nameplate.”



**KATIE ANN BARRETT**

KATIE Ann Barrett is the office manager for Dr. Margaret Fitzsimons, who maintains a private dental practice in Maspeth that has served the Irish community and beyond for the past 16 years. A native of Manchester, but raised in Gweedore, Co. Donegal, Barrett attended the New York County Dental Society and has qualifications in dental nursing and radiology. She relocated to the U.S. in 2000 to follow her boyfriend, now her husband, Michael

Barrett. They have two children. “My Irish heritage influences my life and that of my family on a daily basis. My upbringing has made me who I am today. My sense of humor and the gift of the gab are assets that are truly Irish,” says Barrett, who is deeply involved in the Irish American community.

She is vice president of the Donegal Association of New York, and an assistant to the Irish Apostolate of New York. She also volunteers with the United Irish Counties. “I only hope that in years to come, my work will have helped to keep our traditions alive,” says Barrett, who last year received the Shining Star Award from Bishop of Brooklyn Nicholas DiMarzio for her work with the Apostolate.

“My desire is to impart as much knowledge of my culture as possible to all who may be interested in learning about what binds us to our ancestry. New York is my home now, and I love all that America offers my family. Ireland may be far away but never far from my heart,” says Barrett, who speaks fluent Gaelic along with her husband.



**DYMPNA BOWLES**

DYMPNA Bowles is dean for curriculum and instruction at the Fashion Institute of Technology (FIT) in New York. She has been at FIT since 2001. Bowles facilitates the development and approval of new degree programs and curricula and oversees the assessment of general education. As dean, she has responsibility for faculty development and the Teaching Institute, and supervises the Center for Excellence in Teaching (CET), a state-of-the-art technology training facility for faculty. Bowles received a bachelor’s degree from St. John’s University, a master’s from Fordham and a doctorate in linguistics and reading from Columbia University Teachers College.

Bowles, who is married to Donal Farley, has four stepsons and 13 grandchildren. She serves as chair of the CUNY Institute for Irish American Studies advisory board.

A native of Belfast, Bowles moved to New York in 1957 with her parents. “My father emigrated from Ireland to New York where two of his brothers lived. He left to escape the growing unrest and sectarian conflict in Belfast at the time and to achieve a better life for his five (at that time) children,” says Bowles.

“My Irish heritage has had a deep impact on my life, even though I spent only my first eight years there,” Bowles says. “My parents grew up on farms in the south of Ireland and, though they were quite literate, neither attended school beyond the eighth grade. Perhaps because of this, education was highly prized and a way to a better life.”



**CAROL ANDREWS**

CAROL Andrews is global head of client service, alternative investment services (AIS), at Bank of New York Mellon. She is responsible for a global team located in Dublin, Luxembourg, New York, New Jersey and Singapore. In 2009, she relocated from Dublin to New York when she assumed the global role. With the rapid expansion of the AIS business, Andrews often returns to Dublin to meet with her team and clients.

“I am proud of our global team that is dedicated to helping our clients find solutions that help them succeed in the rapidly evolving marketplace. The team collaborates to ensure that they develop global solutions for clients who operate in regions around the world,” she says.

Andrews is also dedicated to the Irish community. She is actively involved in BNY Mellon’s Global Community Partnership, establishing this in Ireland and working with the current Irish charity of the year, the Simon Community.

“Irish people are recognized for their hard work and reliability. We are not afraid to work hard, and this has meant that we have become integral members of the communities in which we live and work,” says Andrews.



**ACUSHLA BASTIBLE**

ACUSHLA (Mary Elizabeth) Bastible is the education program manager and stage director at the Santa Fe Opera, and an affiliate artist at Littleglobe, a non-profit artist ensemble, in Santa Fe, New Mexico.

As a multidisciplinary performance artist — writer, director, performer, and educator — she is drawn to work that questions the social and historical contexts in which performance happens, work that expands our understanding of the what, where, who, and how of performance.

In addition to freelance work as a theater/opera director, Bastible serves as an artistic co-director of

Angel Exit Theatre, based in England and Ireland. Angel Exit’s productions have been nominated for many awards including Best Production in the Dublin Fringe Theatre Festival and the Edinburgh Fringe First Award.

Bastible is a graduate of Trinity College Dublin, the Courtauld Institute of Art, Somerset House in London, and the École Internationale de Théâtre Jacques Lecoq in Paris. Bastible met her husband Charles Gregory Gamble while studying in Paris, and moved here in 2002.

“I had no plan to move to the U.S., but thought I should visit Charles in New Mexico. He had spoken so highly of this ‘Land of Enchantment.’ We have been in the ‘Land of Entrapment,’ as it is often fondly referred to, ever since,” she says.

Bastible returns to Ireland at least once a year, and would like to create more theater projects there in the years to come.

“I feel deeply connected to Ireland even when I am not physically there. I am grateful to my parents for making the decision to send me (all the girls in fact) to an all-Irish speaking school, Colaiste Iosagain, where I developed a profound appreciation for the Irish language and culture,” Bastible says.



**KATHLEEN ANN BOYLE**

KATHLEEN Ann Boyle is the president and founder of Chapin Hill Advisors, Inc. in New York, which offers fee based financial planning services structured into three levels to accommodate a broad array of individual clients as well as business planning for small to mid-sized companies. Growing businesses, high net-worth individuals and not for profit institutions are offered investment advisory services with a unique approach implementing strategies based on core and satellite asset allocation.

Boyle, a native of Brooklyn, is a certified financial planner who attended Michigan State University and the University of Colorado.

She is a regular commentator and guest on national television shows such as CNBC’s *On the Money* and *Squawk Box*, Fox News *Your World With Cavuto*, NBC’s *Nightly Business News*, Fox Business Network, NY1, Bloomberg Radio and personal-finance shows.

*Registered Representative* magazine profiled Boyle for her success in building her business through networking. She has also been interviewed extensively for many publications, including *The Wall Street Journal*, *Crain’s New York Small Business Journal*, the *Chicago Tribune*, *The Journal of Financial Planning*, *Elle* magazine, *Financial Planning Magazine* and *Research Magazine*.

A second generation Irish American, Boyle’s maternal grandparents came from Co. Mayo. Her paternal grandparents are from Kerry and Cork.

“I am proud of my Irish heritage as the Irish have a great reputation for good hearts, always willing to lend a hand to their neighbor, always ready with a smile,” says Boyle. “The Irish are survivors and hard work is not a challenge. They have a great sense of humor and camaraderie. Babies are loved and cherished. I can always count on my Irish friends, and if they say something, they mean it.”





*Together, we have even  
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Invest Northern Ireland congratulates

Carol Andrews, BNY Mellon

and all of the Irish Voice Influential  
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ORLA BRADY

ORLA Brady is an attorney in the New York office of Kreindler & Kreindler LLP, a leading law firm representing personal injury and wrongful death victims and their families from the U.S. and the world. A native of Nashville, Brady received a bachelor’s degree from Northern Illinois University, a JD from New England School of Law in Boston, and an LL.M. degree from Trinity College Dublin in 2003. Brady joined Kreindler & Kreindler in 2007. She has lectured on various aviation litigation related issues across the country. Both of Brady’s parents were born in Co. Kilkenny. She lived in Ireland for a year

when she studied at Trinity College, and she has visited the country at least once a year since she was seven years old. Brady is a member of the Irish Network-New York City (IN-NYC), and is a former member of the board of directors of the Young Irish Fellowship Club of Chicago. “I am enormously proud of my Irish heritage. The Irish are well known to be charming, have a sharp wit and the ability to tell a good story. I also believe they are culturally unmatched,” Brady says. “For such a small island, Irish writers have made a disproportionately large number of serious contributions to world literature. The profound and important contributions the Irish have made and continue to make to world culture makes me proud to call myself Irish.”



CHRISTIE ERIN CALAHAN

CHRISTIE Erin Calahan is CMO and a partner in Wheresmymedia, LLC, a media technology company that specializes in digital media workflow solutions, a new area in the emerging media category. The company designs digital video software that automates how content is moved across multiple media platforms. A native of the Bronx, Calahan earned a bachelor’s degree from the Newhouse School of Public Communications at Syracuse University. She has 10 years of experience working in communications/media planning at various New York ad agencies. She also co-organizes the NYC digital workflow meet-up. Calahan is a fourth generation Irish American with roots in various parts of Ireland. She has

traveled throughout the country. “My friends and family consider me to be a St. Patrick’s Day baby. I was due to enter the world on March 17 but in fact came a day early due to an impending snowstorm,” Calahan says. “I am proud to have my full first name Christie Erin linked to my Irish heritage.”



LIZ CARROLL

LIZ Carroll is one of the world’s most renowned Irish fiddle players, with a fan base that stretches from Ireland to all across the U.S. She is a senior All-Ireland fiddle champion, having won the prestigious title when she was only 18. In 1994, the National Endowment for the Arts awarded Carroll a National Heritage Fellowship for her great influence on Irish music in America as a performer and a composer. First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton presented the award which bestows national recognition on artists of international stature. Most recently, Carroll performed for President Obama at the annual St. Patrick’s Day luncheon at the Capitol Building in Washington, D.C.,

which was hosted by House Speaker Nancy Pelosi. She was also nominated for a Grammy Award this year for Best Traditional World Album for her work with John Doyle, *Double Play*. Carroll’s father was from Co. Offaly, and her mother from Co. Limerick. She has traveled many times to festivals and concerts all over the country. A native of Chicago, Carroll studied at DePaul University. She and her husband, Charles Lacey, have two children, Patrick and Alison. “I have always been drawn to Irish music, but I have to say that I really like it all — Ireland itself, the dancing, the pubs, the chat and of course the craic. I feel incredibly lucky to be surrounded and involved in the Irish culture which is popular throughout the world,” Carroll says. “I have been able to pursue this genre of music that I love which is quite an accomplishment being a Yank! I have had great support from my family and from the Irish community in Chicago, and I have always felt wonderfully welcome in New York and in Ireland.”



NIAMH BUSHNELL

NIAMH Bushnell is the CEO of Bushnell Solutions, a technology and marketing consulting company assisting young Irish and European companies with U.S. market entry, researching their U.S. market opportunity, honing their value proposition, making introductions to target customers and building relationships with strategic partners for funding, product development and marketing activities. Also, Bushnell currently manages U.S. market development strategy and key client relationships for MoneyMate, a Dublin-based company which offers fund data management services to global investment

banks including JP Morgan, Schroders and State Street. A native of Cork, Bushnell earned an honors business studies degree from the University of Limerick. Prior to starting her company, she spent six years at Enterprise Ireland in New York helping Irish technology companies expand in the U.S. Since 2006 she has been engaged as a consultant by Enterprise Ireland on a number of client related projects. Married with one son, Bushnell says, “The combination of being Irish and living in the U.S. makes me feel like I was born under a lucky star! In 1998 I was offered a job with Enterprise Ireland in New York and packed my bags immediately. “I’d only been to New York once before the big move but it felt like a homecoming nonetheless. I’ve always maintained a close bond with Ireland. My clients are mostly Irish technology companies, so between my work and my family and friends in Dublin, Cork and Donegal I visit Ireland regularly throughout the year.”



DARRAH CARR

DARRAH Carr is the artistic director of Darrah Carr Dance, and a professor of dance at Hofstra University in Long Island. Since 1998, Darrah Carr Dance has created ModERIN, a unique blend of traditional Irish step and contemporary modern dance. The company draws from Irish music, step dance footwork and spatial patterns to create high-energy, rhythmically based work that is accessible to a broad audience. Recent performance highlights include NBC’s *Today* show, a performance with the New York Pops at Carnegie Hall, the company’s 10th anniversary season at the Irish Arts Center, and the Yeats Project at the Irish Repertory Theatre.

Carr, a native of Toledo, Ohio, earned a bachelor of arts from Wesleyan University, and a master’s from NYU’s Tisch School of the Arts. She is currently pursuing doctoral study at Texas Woman’s University leading to a Ph.D in dance. As a respected scholar of Irish dance, she has presented her research findings at the Congress on Research in Dance and at Dance Research Forum Ireland. She has written extensively for *Dance Magazine*, *Dance Teacher*, *Dance Spirit*, *Dance Studio Life*, and *Dancer Magazine*, and she serves as the North American editor of *Dance Insider*. Carr’s ancestors came from counties Kilkenny and Cavan in the 1800s. Her in-laws hail from Cavan and Donegal; she and her husband David Byrne have a daughter, Cavan Eileen, who is 21 months old. “On a happy personal note, my love of Irish dance led me to the love of my husband. Two of his sisters were students in my adult Irish dance class,” Carr says. “I celebrate my Irish heritage because it has touched nearly every aspect of my life. My appreciation of Irish culture is inextricably linked to my love of Irish dance. As a new parent, I look forward to instilling a sense of pride in our Irish heritage in my own daughter.”



DEBORAH CAVANAGH

DEBORAH Cavanagh is senior vice president, marketing, of LOFT, overseeing the brand positioning, marketing, creative, visual and communications for the retail brand. Cavanagh joined LOFT, which is a division of Ann Taylor Corporation, in April 2010. Prior to that, she was the associate publisher, creative services of *Vogue* magazine, overseeing Vogue Studio, the magazine’s in-house creative agency, as well as integrated marketing, promotion, public relations and events. In 2007, Cavanagh spearheaded the launch of Vogue.TV, the online entertainment network with original programming that viewers can shop as they

watch, which won a MIN Best of Web award in 2008. Also in 2008, Vogue.TV debuted *Model.Live*, a weekly broadband series that garnered over 6.6 million video views and introduced consumers to an interactive 24/7 entertainment platform. Prior to joining *Vogue* in 2004, Cavanagh was executive director, creative services for the Condé Nast Media Group. Cavanagh joined Condé Nast in 2003 from the Hearst Group where she was executive director, business development. Cavanagh has been featured in the *Wall Street Journal*, the *New York Times*, *Advertising Age*, *Bloomberg News* and the *Associated Press*. This is the second year that she’s made the *Irish Voice*’s Most Influential Women list. Cavanagh earned a bachelor of fine arts, summa cum laude, from Ohio University. She resides in Westfield, New Jersey with her husband and three daughters. “I am extremely proud of my heritage, and to have married someone who shares it. We feel it’s not just a birthright, but a blessing,” she says.





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At BNY Mellon, we are proud to honor those who inspire others to make a difference in our communities.

BNY Mellon Alternative Investment Services congratulates Carol Andrews and all other recipients of the Irish Voice's Influential Women 2010 award.

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# **Congratulations to *Katie Barrett* on her much deserved honor**

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# Congratulations and Best Wishes to **Siobhán Murphy** and all the honorees who inspire us on their inclusion in The Irish Voice's Most Influential Women of 2010

**From your family:**

**George Lien**

**Leo and Noreen Murphy**

**Maureen Murphy**

**Sean, Jeannie and Colleen Murphy**

**Peter, Adrienne and Joe Murphy**

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**Siobhán McDermott**

And your colleagues and friends:

Siobhan is a masterful coach and teacher. We're proud that Siobhan is part of the global facilitation team for the Excelerator Coaching™ Program. Kudos to Siobhan for this well-deserved honor! Carollyne Conlinn, MCC, Partner, Essential Impact Coaching Inc.

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## JACQUELINE ANN CLEARY

JACQUELINE Ann Cleary is CEO, principal and founding partner of Atlas Data Systems, LLC, which provides information technology services and business solutions to a broad range of Fortune 1000 companies. A native of York, Pennsylvania, Cleary received a bachelor's degree from the University of Scranton, and is now a member of the university's President's Business Council.

Her paternal grandparents hailed from counties Tyrone and Derry. Her mother's family came to the U.S. during the Famine, and were natives of Co. Cork. She received her Irish citizenship in 2006.

"My Irish heritage explains my fondness for raising a pint or two. It is in my blood!" Cleary says.

"While as a child I used to roll my eyes as my grandparents waxed poetically of Ireland's rolling green hillsides, as I grew older I too became aware of the vibrant beauty of the green grasses of Ireland and New Jersey. Green has always been my favorite color; my feel good color that makes me happy, highlighting the sensitive side of me that rarely comes out.

"As a businesswoman, I'd be remiss if I didn't recognize that green is the color of money – but I equate that to financial stability for my family. Which is another Cleary/Derrick Irish trait passed down – the value and satisfaction of an honest, hard day's work.

"As a business owner and mother of three, I want my children to greet each day with a smile, to try their hardest at school and have fun at play, to cherish family and embrace their Irish heritage. After all, we are who we are, in part, because of the family that came before us and the traditions they brought with them on their journey overseas.

"So while I celebrate March 17 with the rest of the nation, I'm proud to be Irish the other 364 days as well. Go ahead, kiss me!"



## CORA CREED

CORA Creed is the vice president of digital operations for Sony Music Entertainment. She splits her time between New York and Salzburg, Austria, working on strategic operational initiatives in the digital arena.

Sony Music is the second-largest global recorded music company of the "big four" record companies, featuring such artists as Bruce Springsteen, Michael Jackson and Carrie Underwood.

A native of Listowel, Co. Kerry, Creed moved to the U.S. in 1991, right after getting married. She received a Donnelly green card and intended to

stay for no longer than a year.

Creed taught computer classes at the Aisling Irish Center in Yonkers 10 years ago. She played and was a committee member of the Bronx Irish Soccer league for a few years, and also played and was a committee member for the Ladies Darts League. She is one of the founding members of Swazi Legacy, Inc., a not-for-profit organization created last year to continue the life-long work of Father Pat Ahern (late of Ballylongford, Co. Kerry), by raising monies to help educate children orphaned due to the AIDS epidemic in Swaziland.

"Despite being one of the smallest nations on earth, we have left an indelible mark on the world. Irish music, dance, literature, sport, and other aspects of the culture have propagated to the four corners of the world," Creed says.

"Being Irish gives you a huge sense of pride and a great deal of response for those that went before in times that were difficult for varying reasons, and yet helped make Ireland that admired country and race that it is around the world. It is with great pride that I say I am Irish!"



## JACKIE DALY JOHNSON

JACKIE Daly Johnson is president of Beacon Converters, Inc. Beacon is a manufacturer of sterilizable packaging for the medical device and pharmaceutical market.

A native of White Plains, New York, Daly Johnson joined the company founded by her grandfather after graduating from Georgetown University in 1982. Over the years she incrementally took on the responsibility of overseeing the areas of customer service, administration, quality, manufacturing and operations.

Today she is integral member of the Sterilization Packaging Manufacturers Council's Technical Committee and many other industry organizations.

Married with two children, Daly Johnson is third generation Irish, with roots in Granard, Co. Longford and Co. Roscommon. She has traveled many times to her ancestral homeland.

Being Irish, Daly Johnson says, gives her a "rich tradition of approaching and conquering obstacles with determination, hard work, innovation, faith and a sense of humor — a tradition we uphold and try to exemplify every day in business as well as in our family and community."



## GRACE CONNELL

GRACE Coughlan Connell is founder and president of GraceConnellDesigns.com, a high-end design firm of printed materials for luxury weddings and special events.

A native of New York, Connell was nominated for *Modern Bride* magazine's Trendsetter of the Year 2010, and the subject of a business segment on *Martha Stewart Television/Best of Weddings* DVD.

A noted wedding expert by *The Wall Street Journal*, Connell's firm has been a 12-year design resource for Tiffany & Co., Cartier, *Martha Stewart Weddings* and *Elegant Bride* magazines, among others.

Connell earned a bachelor's degree from Trinity College in Washington, D.C., and a master's in arts

education from the College of New Rochelle in New York.

She initiated and ran a M.O.M.S. (Ministry of Mothers Sharing) program for St. John's Parish in Darien, Connecticut, and volunteers her Sunday mornings as a seventh grade CCD teacher for Assumption Church in Westport, Connecticut. She also volunteers her time designing and implementing art and art history enrichment lessons for the Westport Public Schools.

Connell is a fifth generation Irish American who traces her roots to counties Cork and Offaly.

"Looking back, with Irish perseverance and a faith in God, 'I have arrived,' as Sister Marie Kathryn Naab, SJ, would have expressed. This is what I consider to be my Irish heritage — to value imagination and craftsmanship, seek to understand other's stories and strive for excellence."

Coughlan and her husband John Edward Connell have three children.



## CATHERINE ROSE CURLEY

CATHERINE Rose Curley is the director of human resources for Glenview Capital in New York. In its 10th year of operation, Glenview Capital Management manages investment funds in long short equity, credit and event driven strategies. The firm has offices in New York and London.

Raised in Belle Harbor, Queens, Curley earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Rochester, and a master's in British and American literature from Hunter College in New York.

Curley's paternal grandmother was born in Limerick, and her maternal grandfather hailed from Croagh, Co. Donegal.

"My mother's uncle, Joseph Brennan, served as a senior Irish Fianna Fail party politician for Donegal, and I was always told prideful stories about Ireland and his impact there. My maternal grandfather emigrated from Donegal to the U.S. in 1917 at the age of 25 and served in the U.S. Navy during World War I. He was subsequently made a U.S. citizen as a result of his service," says Curley, who also fondly recalls her paternal grandmother looking after her while her parents, both teachers, were at work.

"My time with her made a lasting impression on me. I always loved her brogue, her warm personality, her laughter and constant smile. I associate all of these great traits with being Irish."

Curley is a dual U.S.-Irish citizen. "Two years ago, my family decided to obtain Irish citizenship through my maternal Irish lineage. We wanted to do something that would help strengthen our ties to our ancestors. Obtaining dual citizenship was a good way to recognize and honor our Irish heritage," she says.



## LORNA DONOHOE

LORNA Donohoe is the senior vice president of worldwide retail marketing and merchandising for Playboy Enterprises, the famed media and lifestyle company.

A native of Dublin, Donohoe studied at the College of Technology in Dublin and the University of Kinstanz in Germany before making the move to New York in 1995 after receiving a green card.

Her mother Mena told RTE in Ireland that she was stunned when her daughter first told her that she was working for Hugh Hefner's *Playboy*.

"I started as an assistant and worked my way up really. It's funny because when people find out I work for *Playboy* they always ask what Hef is like. It seems to be the question everyone wants to know," she told the *Evening Herald* newspaper.

"He's one of those people that make you feel like you're the only person in the room. He's a real gentleman, he's incredibly intelligent, and it always amazes me how he has his finger on the pulse of what's happening in pop culture," she added. Donohoe, a resident of New York City, is a member of the Irish International Business Network.

Being Irish, she says, "is what has made me who I am today — being able to persevere, rise to challenges and succeed while still maintaining string ethics and a sense of humor. All part and parcel of being Irish!"



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*Maureen Gillespie one of the Top Influential Women of 2010*





TRACY DWYER

TRACY Dwyer is the proprietor and stylist at Heads You Win, a full service salon in Pearl River, New York. A native of Luton, England, Dwyer studied at Barnfield College in Luton, and earned qualification in hair design from City & Guilds in the U.K. Her parents were natives of Thurles, Co. Tipperary, and she moved to the U.S. in 1993, after spending time in Australia.

After four years of living in the U.S., Dwyer opened her first hair salon on Martha Avenue in Yonkers, also called Heads You Win. She had a successful business there for 10 years, and then opened her second salon in the Pearl River neighborhood. Dwyer moved to Pearl River because many of her customers were relocating to the suburbs after getting married and having children. She felt it was a smart business move to also relocate, so she sold her business on Martha Avenue and moved to Pearl River. Heads You Win in Pearl River has now been open for 10 years, with a staff of 10. Dwyer travels to Ireland every year with her husband and two children to visit family members in Tipperary and Ennis, Co. Clare, which is where her husband is from. “I find that it is a hard thing to juggle life as a mother and a professional business woman, but I would not trade either,” Dwyer says. “I love my family dearly and still feel that I am able to give 100% to both my careers — motherhood and the salon.” “My Irish heritage,” Dwyer adds, “gives me a sense of belonging, a sense of history that I can refer back to, to see where I came from and where my ancestors came from. There is palpable pride from being Irish, and this can be effortlessly passed on from generation to generation.”



GERI FIRTH

GERI Firth is a senior account manager at DTG Consulting Solutions in New York, a full resource staffing and consulting firm with a reputation for its excellence in delivering top talent in the information technology arena. Firth attended Pace University in New York. “It is such a great feeling when you provide the perfect resource to your client, and I am particularly proud of a placement of a manager two years ago,” Firth recalls. “I placed a manager from Galway at one of my major clients on Fifth Avenue. It is such a good feeling to know that you help make a difference to someone. I placed him just after he married, and since then he has planted his roots in New York and started a family.” Her maternal grandparents hailed from Clare and paternal from Cork. “I carry a picture of my great grandparents from the early 1900s in my cell phone. I often look at it and know that I am living the dream they had when they kissed their daughter goodbye at the dock and never saw her again,” says Firth. “I have been influenced by a great number of strong Irish women. My mother’s mother was a working single parent, widowed with three young children during the Depression and she managed to adopt her orphaned niece and nephew. My father’s mother raised 12 children in New York during the Depression as well. “My mother is my rock who taught me to balance a career and family while my mother-in-law kept my Irish up with many happy weekends in the Catskills! I hope to continue this tradition and pass it along to my two daughters who have inherited all of our good qualities combined.” Firth and her husband Joe have four children, Sean, Conor, Meagan and Jillian.



ELIZABETH FRAWLEY BAGLEY

AMBASSADOR Elizabeth Frawley Bagley is special representative to the Secretary of State for Global Partnership at the State Department, the primary department of the federal government for the conduct of foreign policy, which oversees 180 embassies around the world including also 80 US Aid missions. Frawley Bagley, a native New Yorker, earned a bachelor of arts cum laude in French and Spanish from Regis College in Weston, Massachusetts, and a JD cum laude from Georgetown University. She is a former member of the board of directors of the American Ireland Fund Committee for a New Ireland. Frawley Bagley was senior advisor to Secretary of State Madeleine Albright from 1997-2001. Prior to this appointment, she served as the U.S. ambassador to Portugal from 1994-1997. An attorney specializing in trade and international law, Frawley Bagley was adjunct professor of law at Georgetown until January 1993. She served as diplomatic liaison for the Clinton-Gore presidential campaign and as foreign policy advisor to the Drafting Committee for the 1992 Democratic Party platform. Frawley Bagley’s grandparents hailed from counties Roscommon, Clare, Limerick and Kerry. She has traveled a number of times throughout the country. Frawley Bagley’s husband, the noted businessman and philanthropist Smith Bagley, passed away in January. She has two children, Vaughan Elizabeth, 20, and Conor Reynolds, 16. “My Irish heritage is an integral part of my life and has been my entire life since my maternal grandmother lived with us and regaled us with stories of the old country, and relatives shipped us fresh shamrocks every St. Patrick’s Day,” Frawley Bagley says. “I have long been involved in the Irish peace process working with John Hume and others to promote reconciliation. I have been on the board of the American Ireland Fund for over 20 years. Ireland is in my heart, but also it is in my soul!”



ANNE FINUCANE

ANNE M. Finucane is the global chief strategy and marketing officer at Bank of America, one of the world’s largest financial institutions, serving individual consumers, small- and middle-market businesses and large corporations with a full range of banking, investing, asset management and other financial and risk management products and services. Finucane reports to Chief Executive Officer and President Brian T. Moynihan, and serves as a member of the company’s senior executive management team. During her 15 years as a senior leader at Bank of America and its legacy firms, Finucane has served as senior advisor to four chief executive officers and the boards of directors, with a focus on corporate strategy and public policy creation and implementation. Finucane oversees Bank of America’s 10-year, \$2 billion philanthropic giving goal through the Bank of America Charitable Foundation, one of the world’s largest corporate philanthropic organizations. The foundation’s signature program, the Neighborhood Excellence Initiative (NEI), is in its seventh year. In 2010 under Finucane’s leadership, the foundation will allocate more than \$20 million globally to NEI, which recognizes, nurtures and rewards organizations, local heroes and student leaders helping to strengthen and revitalize their communities in the bank’s major markets. Also, as founder and chair of the Environmental Council at Bank of America, Finucane leads the company’s focus on one of the world’s most pressing policy issues, global climate change. A native of Boston, Finucane earned a bachelor’s degree from the University of New Hampshire. She serves on the boards of Carnegie Hall, the Special Olympics International Board of Trustees, the John F. Kennedy Library Foundation, Partners Healthcare, the American Ireland Fund and the International Center of Journalists. Finucane’s paternal grandfather came to the U.S. as a young boy from Co. Cork. She has visited Ireland several times over the past few years. Finucane and her husband, the award-winning print and broadcast journalist Mike Barnicle, have four children.



MEGHAN FITZGERALD

MEGHAN Mair Fitzgerald is a senior vice president at Medco Health Solutions, a leading pharmacy benefit manager (PBM), with the nation’s largest mail order pharmacy operations. Through advanced pharmacy, Medco improves the health and lowers the total cost of care for clients and their members. Fitzgerald’s father Michael was born in Ireland, as were her grandparents on both sides. Fitzgerald has been going to Ireland once a year for 39 years, even recalling a visit at five years old with the stewardess as her guardian. The senior healthcare executive with degrees from Fairfield University, Columbia University and New York Medical College is a fan of all things Irish. “I love shepherd’s pie, and my mom’s soda bread, which is a tri-state favorite. A great secret and a special place to me is the surfing down south at Inchydoney in Co. Cork, where I vacation to get good ideas,” says Fitzgerald. “Irish heritage means having an affiliation with people who are intelligent, kind, value high morals, set high educational goals, and embrace hard work.”



BEBHINN GALLEN

BEBHINN Gallen is the director of catering sales at the Ritz-Carlton Hotel in Battery Park City, New York. The Ritz is the only AAA 5 Diamond luxury waterfront hotel in New York City with 298 guest rooms, sweeping views of the Statue of Liberty and New York Harbor. A native of Dublin, Gallen earned a degree in international hotel management and French from the Shannon College of International Hotel Management. She moved to the U.S. in 1994 when she received a Morrison green card in the visa lottery. Gallen, an active fundraiser for the Irish global humanitarian group GOAL from 1993-2009, is married with two sons, Hugh and Finn. Though she’s been a resident of the U.S. for many years, she says her Irish heritage is still a huge part of who she is. “My entire family is back in Ireland. My education and upbringing was there. I still feel very connected to Ireland even though I have lived in New York City for the past 16 years. Being Irish in New York City makes me always feel special and part of a huge welcoming community,” Gallen feels.



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MAUREEN GILLESPIE

AS a director at Evins Communications Ltd. in New York, Maureen Gillespie oversees the public relations and marketing campaigns for well-known international companies in the lifestyle and beauty sectors. Formerly a public relations executive with the Estée Lauder Companies, Inc., Gillespie’s communications career has focused on luxury goods, representing global brands such as Jo Malone and Donna Karan Cosmetics. A founding member of the American Ireland Fund’s (AIF) New York Young Leaders, Gillespie has been instrumental in the conception, strategic vision and expansion of the program for over eight years. In 2005, she was voted by her peers to serve as the Young Leader representative to the AIF’s New York Regional Board. From 2006-2010, Gillespie took on the role of AIF New York regional director, where she led the Young Leaders to achieve key successes, including raising over \$1 million in four years, and establishing American and international chapters. An active member of the Irish American community, Gillespie is also a supporter of the Irish Arts Center. She was featured as a panelist at the inaugural U.S.-Ireland Forum in 2007 hosted by *Irish America* magazine, University College Dublin and the AIF. Gillespie is a first generation Irish American with roots in Cork, Donegal and Sligo, and holds both American and Irish citizenship. A native New Yorker, she graduated from Providence College in Rhode Island where she majored in English and history. She also spent a semester abroad at Richmond College in the U.K. A devoted yoga practitioner, Maureen also enjoys playing tennis, reading, golf and travel.



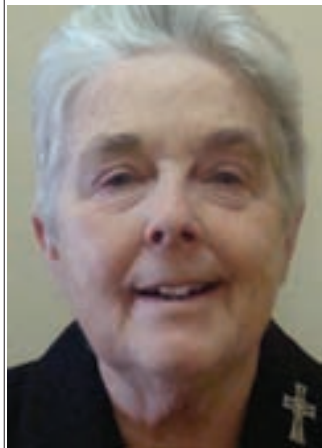
MARY BETH GLACCUM

MARY Beth Glaccum is director of business development and investor relations for Lucas Capital Management, LLC, an investment advisor registered with the SEC serving multiple client types, including high net worth individuals, endowments, foundations, retirement plans and sovereign wealth funds. Glaccum, a native of New Jersey, earned a bachelor’s in management and marketing, magna cum laude, from Felician College in Lodi, New Jersey. Glaccum’s maternal grandfather came from Partry, Co. Mayo. She recently discovered that her paternal Glaccum family traces its roots to Co. Kildare. She visits Ireland several times a year, and is currently training for the Longford Marathon in August. “I have a special place in my heart for Galway and spend as much time as I can there at a holiday apartment in Salthill that overlooks the Galway Bay. I smile just thinking about it,” Glaccum says. A student of Irish dance at the Brian Sexton Academy of Spring Lake, New Jersey for several years, Glaccum is active in the American Ireland Fund, and she helps to organize fundraising events for Irish humanitarian group Concern. She is a member of the Irish Arts Center, the Irish Network New York City (IN-NYC) and the Irish Hedge Fund Network. “My love of Ireland only increased as I got older and the opportunity to travel ‘home’ became more frequent. I was fortunate enough to be able to stay in Galway for two months straight in 2008 and my only regret was it wasn’t enough time,” she says. “I was exposed to so much culture and got in with the locals while there. I even had the inspiration to learn Irish (but to be honest haven’t been too successful). I recognize hard times have hit Ireland and Europe now but I believe Ireland has a bright future. She will continue to be a growing part of my life.”



ANDREA HAUGHIAN

ANDREA Haughian is the vice president of business development at Invest Northern Ireland, a government agency whose role is to grow the North’s economy by helping new and existing businesses to compete internationally, and by attracting new investment to Northern Ireland. Invest Northern Ireland offers the Northern Ireland business community a single organization providing high-quality services, programs, support and expert advice. The organization principally supports businesses in the manufacturing and tradable services sectors. A native of Lurgan, Co. Armagh, Haughian moved to the U.S. in 2007 to take up her position in Invest Northern Ireland’s New York office. She has extensive experience in the financial services sector and specializes in assisting U.S. companies with establishing successful near shore operations in the North. Haughian earned a bachelor of science degree with honors from Queen’s University Belfast. She has undertaken post-graduate programs in both San Francisco and Chicago, and is a member of the Chartered Institute of Marketing, Fellow of Young Enterprise and member of the Institute of Directors. “I am very proud of the work undertaken by Invest Northern Ireland’s team in the U.S., led by Senior Vice President Gary Hanley,” says Haughian. “Even in such challenging times we have had one of our most successful years assisting multi-national companies gain further competitive advantage by locating in Northern Ireland and benefiting from our highly educated labor pool, competitive cost base and generous support programs.”



SISTER CHRISTINE HENNESSY

SISTER Christine Hennessy is a social worker at Catholic Charities, Project Irish Outreach, based at the Aisling Irish Center in Yonkers. Project Irish Outreach has been part of Catholic Charities since 1991. With the aid of a grant from the Irish government, its purpose is to provide a variety of resources and services to meet the needs of those who come for assistance. A native of New York City, Hennessy attended Mercy College and Fordham, where she earned a master’s in education. She is a licensed master social worker. Hennessy’s parents hailed from counties Galway and Cork, and she has made several trips to her ancestral homeland. “Along with my Catholic faith, my Irish heritage is one of the strong foundations of my life, and it has made me what I am today. As a child of Irish immigrants, my family life was very connected to the family still in Ireland as well as those who came to America at the same time as my parents,” says Hennessy. “As soon as I was able, I joined my mother in writing to my grandmother. I learned to spell the difficult Irish address in Galway before many other easier words. Although I did not visit Ireland and meet my aunts, uncles and numerous first cousins until I was 30 years old, I felt as if I had known them for years. “As a Sister of Mercy, I also feel very connected to Ireland through our foundress, Catherine McAuley, who started our community on Baggot Street in Dublin in 1832. Her teachings built on the foundation I was given by my parents at home. “I feel blessed to be in touch with Irish immigrants and their families each day. I continue to be grateful for my Irish heritage, which sustains me and brings me much joy and gladness.”



GERALDINE KANE TRAINO

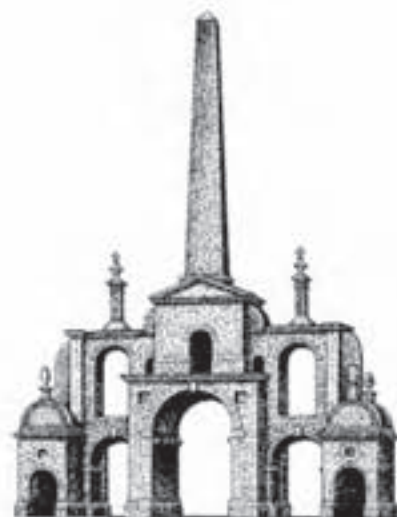
GERALDINE Kane Traino is the director of sales and marketing at the Hotel Beacon. Called the “Jewel of the Upper West Side,” the Hotel Beacon is a 260-room, newly renovated boutique hotel on Broadway at West 75th Street in New York. Kane Traino has 30-plus years promoting tourism to the city of New York in various positions including 13 years at the Hotel Beacon, 12 years at the New York Convention and Visitors Bureau and five years at the St. Moritz On-the-Park Hotel. Kane Traino was awarded the 2010 Hotel Sales and Marketing Executive of the Year Award by the Hospitality Sales and Marketing Association International’s Greater New York Chapter. A native of Brooklyn, Kane Traino’s maternal grandparents hailed from Ballinagh, Co. Cavan. Her grandfather, John Connolly, was the foreman for the roofers during the construction of the Empire State Building and his name is on the plaque in the building’s lobby that says “John Connolly-Roofer.” She’s been to Ireland a dozen times for both business and pleasure. Kane Traino is a widow. She has two children and three grandchildren. What does being Irish mean to her? “Love of...family, large gatherings, singing/dancing, working hard, the importance of faith and all things green,” she says.



JEANNE KAZEL WILCKE

JEANNE Kazel Wilcke is the principal and founder of Breithorn LLC, a privately held New York real estate company that has invested in buildings and portfolios of coops/condos and conversions. Kazel Wilcke, a native of Brooklyn, acts as principal in transactions, and has been particularly successful at distressed turnaround situations, calling upon her nearly three decades of structured finance and investment banking expertise to successfully rejuvenate properties. She sits on numerous co-op boards and has first hand experience managing and running cooperative corporations. Before founding her real estate investment company, Kazel Wilcke worked as an executive at some of the most recognized financial institutions, including CIT Group and Dean Witter. Kazel Wilcke earned a bachelor’s in mathematics from SUNY Binghamton, and an MBA in finance from New York University. Her maternal grandparents came from Drumlish, Co. Longford. During her college years she traveled throughout Ireland and visited the homes that her grandparents grew up in. “Years ago, I visited an Irish relative, Father Michael, who presided over a parish in Scotland. He awed me with stories of the family’s Irish history,” says Kazel Wilcke. “One story in particular was fascinating. During the brutal days of Oliver Cromwell’s decimation of Ireland, an ancestor of mine rose up and attempted to assassinate the brutal lord ruling the area. Alas, my poor but brave relative was caught in the act — and hung! He risked his life to stop the obliteration of the people. “To me,” she adds, “being Irish means having the courage to take a stand.”





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**EMILY-JANE KIRWAN**

EMILY-Jane Kirwan is the director of the Pace Gallery in New York, one of the most respected and renowned contemporary galleries in the world and a leader in its field. The gallery has three spaces in New York and a gallery in Beijing. The gallery represents and exhibits the work of artists

such as Jim Dine, Kiki Smith, Tara Donovan, Tim Hawkinson and the Irish sculptor Corban Walker, as well as representing several estates, among them Pablo Picasso and Mark Rothko. The gallery, which celebrates its 50th year this year, has mounted nearly 700 exhibitions to date, and is known for its publications and scholarly presentations.

A native of Dublin, Kirwan earned a bachelor’s and master’s degree in art history and English literature from Trinity College Dublin, and a higher diploma in arts administration from University College Dublin.

Kirwan moved to New York in 2001 for professional development and opportunities; she and her husband return to visit several times a year.

Kirwan is a member of the Young Leader’s group of the American Ireland Fund, the Irish Arts Center and Lismore Castle Arts in Co. Waterford.

Being Irish, Kirwan says, “means I feel part of a rich and unique, cultural and social heritage to which I have a responsibility to honor, promote, and hopefully enhance through my work with artists and the artistic community on the international stage.

“It also means I know I am connected to a strong global network resulting from the emigration experience which is part of each Irish generation past and present, a heritage which links us to our origins regardless of geographical location and I believe empowers us.”



**KATHLEEN LYNCH**

KATHLEEN Lynch is the executive director of the Xavier Society for the Blind, which provides Catholic reading materials in Braille, large print and audio CDs and is an affiliate library of the National Library Service. A native of Boston, Lynch earned a bachelor’s in economics from Wellesley College, and a master’s from Northeastern University. Married with three children, Lynch is third generation Irish. She traces her roots to Co. Cork. She has traveled through the Shannon region, Galway, the Ring of Kerry and the Dingle Peninsula.

“For 19 years I have used my business skills from my MBA and my Irish Catholic heritage to successfully further the mission of the Xavier Society for the Blind,” she says.

“To me, Irish heritage is one of welcome and warmth. The Xavier Society is part of that heritage by welcoming blind people with an interest in spiritual reading to deepen their faith through literature in accessible formats.”



**KATE LYNCH**

KATHLEEN Mary (Kate) Lynch is an attorney, CEO and owner of Bway.net, a full-service Internet provider founded in 1995 with the goal of humanizing the Internet and educating and supporting Bway’s clients in the new world of technology. A native of Rockville Centre, Long Island, Lynch is a graduate of Brown University and

CUNY Law School. Prior to joining Bway.net, she was a former freelance writer and critic who has been published in *The New York Times* and the *Village Voice*. She has also written biographies of David Bowie and Bruce Springsteen.

Divorced with one daughter, Sonja Mereu, Lynch traces her Irish ancestry to counties Galway and Clare. She has visited Ireland three times, most recently on a golf trip that began in Dublin and ended in Kerry. She hopes to return this year with her seven siblings to play golf in Northern Ireland.

“My father embodied the humor, charm, love of music and literature that I’ve always associated with the Irish and that I consider to be part of my DNA,” Lynch says.

“The love of language and the fluidity of the Irish people continue to inspire, and I feel like I have an instant entree to Irish men and women worldwide solely on the basis of my last name. They’re the pot of gold at the end of my rainbow.”



**SIOBHAN LYONS**

SIOBHAN Lyons is the executive director of the Irish Immigration Center in Philadelphia, which was founded in 1998 to meet the needs of the Irish immigrant population in the area. The center continues to serve the Irish community and other immigrants, providing confidential advice, information and support on issues relating to immigration, employment, citizenship, housing and social services. Lyons, a native of Dublin, holds bachelor’s and master’s degrees in Arabic from the School of Oriental and African Studies at the University of London. She moved to Philadelphia in 2006 to work for the World Affairs Council. Prior to moving to the U.S., she served as a diplomat in the Irish Department of Foreign Affairs. She is involved in several nonprofit organizations, including International House Philadelphia, Irish Network-Philadelphia, the Philadelphia Academy of Fine Arts and

Philadelphia Young Nonprofit Leaders. The daughter of an Irish diplomat, Lyons spent her childhood and teen years in Dublin, Nairobi, Washington, D.C., London, and Riyadh.

“Having lived most of my life outside Ireland, I have always been struck by (and benefited from) the enormous goodwill towards the Irish across the globe,” says Lyons.

“I think this stems from two things — first, that Ireland is an inspiring example of a small country that has successfully overcome the tragedies of colonization, famine and poverty, but also that our own experience of diaspora has created a sense of identity that is open, inclusive and welcoming of the millions of people around the world who identify as Irish.

“With over 70 million people in the world claiming Irish descent, the global Irish are one of Ireland’s greatest strengths. We are no longer a small country punching above its weight on the international stage, but a vast network of people, resources and ideas bound together by the common thread of our Irish past and with much to offer Ireland’s future.”



**KATHLEEN MALONEY**

KATHLEEN Maloney is the director of FlaggStaff Technology Group, Inc., a technology solutions company based in Scarsdale, New York. FlaggStaff provides clients with the technical expertise necessary to leverage new and existing technology that will fast track their business growth. Maloney’s expertise lies in fully understanding the client’s business, their goals and current limitations, and then providing scal-

able business and technology strategy to help them succeed. FlaggStaff recruits and retains niche technical and strategic experts and deploys them throughout the U.S.

A native of Dunmore, Co. Galway, Maloney earned a bachelor’s in English, sociology and politics from the National University of Ireland in Galway, and a master’s in American government from St. John’s University in Queens.

Maloney, married with two sons, moved to the U.S. in 1993, due to a “combination of ambition and a quest for sunshine!” she says.

“I think my Irish heritage becomes more crystallized for me through my kids. Though both boys were born here, they enjoy visiting two sets of grandparents in Ireland in the summer, particularly visiting the farm in Galway,” Maloney says.

“They are intrigued by the history and the castles. They love the legends and they like to spout myth-busters at school on St. Patrick’s Day. It is revealing to view it through their eyes. I have found that because of them we are more interested in recording our family history and making sure that they don’t buy into media’s interpretation of what it is to be Irish.”





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KATHLEEN McCABE

KATHLEEN McCabe is a managing director of investment banking at Morgan Stanley, where she covers private equity clients. She joined Morgan Stanley in 1998 and has been involved in numerous strategic and financing assignments, including leveraged buy-outs, recapitalizations, mergers, acquisitions, initial public offerings and a broad range of debt and equity related financings. McCabe has also run Morgan Stanley’s worldwide investment banking associate program and has held a number of managerial positions working with the firm’s leaders across a variety of divisions.

A native of New York City, McCabe received a bachelor’s degree in government from Georgetown University in 1994. Married with two daughters, McCabe’s parents are natives of Co. Leitrim. She recalls many trips to Ireland growing up — “memorable visits to cousins, aunts and uncles in Longford, Leitrim and Ballyjamesduff. Loads of craic in Galway. Almost blown away on Dingle Peninsula. Scenic drives in Yeats Country. Tours around Dublin.” What does being Irish mean to McCabe? “Loads and loads of cousins! Both here and in Ireland. A strongly held view that the more really means the merrier. A deep commitment to family. A love of storytelling,” she says. “Faith. Optimism. An appreciation for a well poured pint, a great seisiun, U2, the Saw Doctors, the Galway pubs and the smell of turf. “A love of New York City — a city which has fulfilled the dreams of so many Irish who were drawn here by its promise of opportunity and a better life — and a sense of obligation to help others who are working to fulfill the same dream.” McCabe serves as a trustee of the George F. Baker Scholars Program at Georgetown. As a trustee, she mentors scholarship recipients who are selected for their potential to become business leaders and leaders in their communities.



BARBARA McCORMICK

BARBARA McCormick is an attorney at Dornan & Associates PLLC, an immigration law firm specializing in entertainment, business and family based visa applications. An avid film, theater and music enthusiast, McCormick has successfully processed numerous visas for internationally renowned theatrical, film and television actors and comedians, as well as some of Ireland’s top touring productions, musicians, dancers and business professionals. As a result, she is highly attuned to the needs of the arts, music and media industries. A native of Belfast, McCormick moved to the

U.S. in 2001 shortly after passing the New York State Bar exam. “I was restless in my career in Belfast and thought it made sense to gain some experience to back it up. I had visited New York for a holiday a few years previously, and fell in love with the city instantly. I knew I wanted to spend some time living and working here,” she says. McCormick received a law degree from Trinity College Dublin, and was admitted to the New York Bar in 2000. She is a director of the Irish American Bar Association of New York, and a member of Trinity College Dublin NYC Alumni group, the Irish Arts Center and the Irish Network New York City (IN-NYC). “My Irish background has been an enormous asset to me since I first set foot in New York. For a start, it offers a great, initial support network to people who arrive, as I did, with no friends or family living here,” says McCormick. “I’ll also never forget the friendship provided to me by those ‘friends of friends,’ names and numbers scribbled in my address book as good people to call for advice and help,” she adds, citing businessman Ronan Downes and attorney Eamonn Dornan as particularly helpful.



SOPHIE McCONNELL

SOPHIE Sweetman McConnell is a second generation Irish American whose paternal grandfather came to Minnesota in 1882 at the behest of his cousin, John, who had formed the Irish American Colonization Company to enable Irish to emigrate and take title to farms he had created on 20,000 acres he had bought in 1880.

In the early 1890s John became a member of the Irish Parliament representing Wicklow East. A decade later he was a co-founder and second president of Sinn Fein. “My father inherited the family estate, Clohamon, in Wexford. Though he rarely visited Ireland after selling the estate in the 1950s, he was happy to allow me to use some of the money from the estate while I attended Trinity College Dublin,” says McConnell. She spent most of her career in publishing as managing editor of two divisions of the Viking Press, mainly dealing with photography, design and art books. “My greatest pleasure was working closely with photographers such as Irving Penn, Andre Kertesz, and Malcolm Kirk. My last salaried job before retiring was Associate Director of the American Institute of Graphic Arts,” McConnell says. She is the author of *Metropolitan Jewelry*, a book published by the Metropolitan Museum of Art. McConnell earned a master’s in history from New York University with a thesis on the Catholic mercantile class of 18th and 19th century Ireland, basing most of her research on the history of my own family, who were major porter brewers during that period. “While doing my academic work, I was a founding member of GRIAN, which produced an annual conference for emerging scholars and published an annual academic journal, all with the sponsorship of Glucksman Ireland House. While at NYU, I was one of 30 students accepted into Notre Dame’s first summer program in Dublin for graduate students,” McConnell says. She is the chair of a Columbia County high school’s Taconic Hills Arts and Humanities Fund, and last year was appointed to the advisory board of Glucksman Ireland House.



MARIJONA McDEVITT

MARIJONA McDevitt is an attorney in New York specializing in taxation and intellectual property. She has also worked with the United Nations Development Program. A native of Strabane, Co. Tyrone, McDevitt has lived in worked in nine countries and 16 different cities. She now lives in New York with her partner of 27 years. McDevitt is a graduate of Trinity College Dublin and the Dublin Institute of Technology. She was made a senator and life member of Jaycees International in 1984, and was the first woman president of the Junior Chamber in Northern Ireland.

McDevitt has participated in many cross-community and cross-border initiatives in Ireland, including Cultures of Ireland and Women in Small Business, a project spearheaded by the then U.S. Ambassador to Ireland Margaret Heckler. A tireless fundraiser, McDevitt is a founder member of an Irish charity that gives comfort to people living with HIV/AIDS. She has also fundraised for Irish Guide Dogs for the Blind. “Coming from the northwest, my heritage is weaving, knitting and many other forms of artistic handicrafts. The export of these across the world means that the world is always becoming more Irish. To me being Irish means that the world is literally at my feet,” says McDevitt, who is also an Irish and international theater buff.



SARAH McENEANEY

SARAH McEneaney is senior manager of financial services/asset management at PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP (PwC) in Boston. A native of Cork who was raised in Tralee, Co. Kerry, McEneaney is a graduate of University College Cork, where she earned a bachelor of science in accounting. She is a chartered accountant, and is a member of Chartered Accountants of Ireland (CAI), Association of Chartered Accountants in the U.S. (ACAUS), and the UCC Alumni Association.

McEneaney spent two college summers in the U.S. on a J-1 visa, and after starting full-time employment with PwC after finishing her studies, she completed several short-term assignments in New York and Seattle between 2002 and 2003. Following 18 months in Asia and Australia for work and travel, she returned to PwC in December of 2005, and has lived in Boston ever since. McEneaney is a breast cancer survivor who completed treatments in June. “This has given my mom another reason to visit even more, so we have fitted in more shopping than usual!” McEneaney says. McEneaney takes great pride in her Irish heritage. “My Irish identity is very important to me, both when I am at home in Kerry and when I am here in the U.S.,” she says. “I take a great deal of pride in the culture and traditions with which I was raised and am careful not to lose these no matter where my travels take me, but at the same time enjoy experiencing new countries and adding onto my heritage with what I learn from other cultures. “Going home to Kerry each Christmas embodies for me what it means to be Irish — the focus on family, the roaring fireplaces, music, more cups of tea than you can shake a stick at, home cooking, and of course, no end in sight to the craic to be had.”



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REGINA McGUIRE

REGINA McGuire is a co-founder and partner at Continuity National Interim HR Staffing and Continuity HR Direct, a unique “super-niche” professional staffing firm in Roseland, New Jersey founded on a “win-win” mentality for experienced human resource professionals seeking consulting assignments or permanent positions. A native of New Jersey, McGuire earned a bachelor’s degree cum laude from Boston College, and a JD from Seton Hall

University. Her firm was named by *INC* magazine as one of the 5,000 fastest growing companies in the U.S. last year, while this year, Diversity Business.com named the company one of the Top 500 owned women’s businesses in the U.S. McGuire’s paternal grandparents came from counties Mayo and Kilkenny, and she has visited Ireland twice. “It is difficult for me to write anything that could adequately express my pride and emotion about my Irish heritage,” says McGuire, who fondly remembers her grandparents as a strong presence during her formative years. “Stories from the old country and from that time abound — they protected each other, sheltered each other and defended each other. They valued family, the church and also possessed a tremendous joie de vivre — engaging in ever present banter, story telling, reciting poetry, playing the concertina and other musical instruments, dancing and singing Irish songs,” recalls McGuire. “The greatest generation has now sadly passed, but our extended families of cousins, on both sides of the Atlantic, have remained united because of the strength of the relationships forged by the patriarchs and matriarchs of our families, as well as our common desire to maintain our proud ties to our Irish heritage.”



ANNA MEGAN

ANNA Megan, a native of Aclare, Co. Sligo, is an administrator for the Archdiocese of New York at St. Agnes Church in Midtown Manhattan, where she has been based for the last nine years. She immigrated to the U.S. in 1976, and continued her education in New York while working as a waitress in Rosie O’Grady’s in Manhattan. Upon completion of her studies she worked in the insurance industry for American Reinsurance for several years before leaving to raise her children.

During that time she became involved in public school politics. She was elected president of the PTA in Forest Hills, Queens and served as an officer of the Community School Board. She was instrumental in acquiring funding through grants and other sources for after-school programs for several under-funded schools. As her children got older, she returned to the workforce as an account manager for Cambridge Footwear Group. Many years later she joined St. Agnes, home to the only Gaelic Mass in New York City, which is held on St. Patrick’s Day. A great supporter of everything Irish, Megan is involved in many Irish community circles. She was named Sligo Person of the Year 2010 by the Sligo Association of New York. She is also a member of the Irish Arts Center and the Irish Network, along with other organizations. Megan’s daughter Erin works in interior and set design and resides in Los Angeles with her husband Michael. Her son, Sean Patrick, a graduate of Babson College, lives in Lima, Peru where he works in real estate and hotel development. Megan is very proud of her Irish heritage. “When I am going to Ireland every year I say, ‘I am going home,’ even though I have lived in New York for over 30 years. There will always be a place in my heart for Ireland,” she says.



CASSANDRA MURPHY

CASSANDRA Murphy is the funds administrator of the Buffalo Benefit Funds for Bricklayers & Allied Craftworkers Local 3 in upstate New York. The Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers has a rich history and can trace its roots dating back to 1869. For over 100 years the local has represented the most highly skilled trowel trades craft workers in western New York who have been a part of building the community with great pride and quality. Murphy earned a bachelor’s degree from SUNY Potsdam, and a master’s from Medaille College in Buffalo.

Three of her grandparents came from Ireland, from counties Cork and Sligo. “Living in a diverse country where identities meld together and heritage tends to get lost in the mix, I have a great sense of pride from carrying on the bloodlines of my Irish ancestors,” she says. “I have learned that hard work and perseverance are a part of who I am and who my ancestors were. Their strength and determination are inspiring to me and I cherish the camaraderie I feel when I participate in the local Irish community and our cultural celebrations.”



NAOMI McMAHON

NAOMI McMahon is the New York director of the VIA Group, a prestigious integrated marketing agency headquartered in Portland, Maine and voted one of the top 100 advertising agencies in the U.S. McMahon is a native of Dublin, and received a bachelor’s degree from Trinity College in Dublin. She originally moved to Milwaukee in 2003 to accept a position at Harley-Davidson Motor Company, and she returned to the U.S. in 2005 as a marketing executive with Irish government agency Enterprise Ireland in New York. McMahon is a member of several Irish groups in New York. She is the co-chair of the Trinity College New York Alumni Association, and the chair of the All-Ireland New York Pan-Alumni Association. She is also an American Ireland Fund Young Leader, a

member of the Irish Network New York City (IN-NYC), and the Irish International Business Network. “Being Irish is an inherent part of my DNA. It’s in the stories I read and share, the music I listen to, the designs I love to wear and the many vibrant organizations and communities I’m involved in,” McMahon says. “Having lived away from home for a number of years now, I have gained an even greater appreciation of the unique richness of Irish culture and creativity, and the importance of an incredibly strong family connection. “The warmth extended to Irish people by the greater New York community and beyond is amazing. It is one which has made my journey here thus far a thoroughly rich, enjoyable and well traveled one!”



CHARLOTTE MOORE

CHARLOTTE Moore is the artistic director of the Irish Repertory Theatre in New York. Founded by Moore and Ciaran O’Reilly, the Irish Rep as it is fondly known, opened its doors in September 1988 with Sean O’Casey’s *The Plough and the Stars*.

The mission of the theater was and remains to bring works by Irish and Irish American masters and contemporary playwrights to American audiences, to provide a context for understanding the contemporary Irish American experience, and to encourage the development of new works focusing on the Irish and Irish American experience, as well as a range of other cultures. In 1995, the Irish Rep made its permanent home in Chelsea on three completely renovated floors. It is currently the

only year-round theater company in New York City devoted to bringing Irish and Irish American works to the stage. A native of Illinois, Moore attended Washington University in St. Louis. She is second generation Irish and traces her ancestry to Wexford Town. She has traveled to Ireland on many occasions. “Being Irish has given me a proud identity. I am very lucky to work in my chosen field in an Irish organization,” Moore says.



DONNA MURPHY

DONNA Murphy is the worldwide managing partner of Euro RSCG Life Worldwide, the largest fully unified health marketing network with 60 agencies in 50 countries with 2,000 employees. Murphy joined the Euro RSCG network in 1987. She and her managing partner, Doug Burcin, are responsible for Euro RSCG Life Global network, which consists of 60 offices, with 2,000 employees worldwide. It was named Network of the Year for 2010 by *Medical Marketing and Media*, and Healthcare Agency of the Year by *Adweek* (the first time an agency has won both honors in one year).

Parent company Euro RSCG Worldwide named Murphy and Burcin its 2010 Management Team of the Year, and designated Euro RSCG Life as its 2010 Agency of the Year. She played a key role in the growth of Euro RSCG Worldwide’s global network, launching the start up of all specialized services (public relations, medical education, interactive, managed care consulting and sales training), as well as overseeing and integrating the major acquisitions. Murphy earned a bachelor’s in business administration from Pace University in New York, and is a member of HBA (Healthcare Businesswomen’s Association). Murphy’s Irish roots can be traced back to Co. Roscommon on her mother’s side. She and her family — husband Jim, a member of the Friendly Sons of St. Patrick, and children Taryn and Jimmy — travel to Ireland every two years. The family also has two English Springer spaniels, Kerry and Mulligan. “As a female executive competing in the business world, I’m also reminded of the subtle parallels with the some elements of the Irish experience. The challenges of succeeding as a woman in business and the lengthy but rewarding struggle to be recognized for one’s achievements are not unlike the early discrimination against the Irish and their perseverance to gain full acceptance and recognition for their significant achievements,” Murphy says. “Just as the Irish dreamed of making a better life for themselves and their children, I feel a sense of duty, and gratitude, to be able to give of my experience to help another generation of women executives reach their goals.”





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HELEN MURPHY

HELEN Murphy is the president of International Media Services (IMS), a financial and strategic advisory firm for clients in the global media entertainment and arts industries. It was founded in 2004. Murphy is a seasoned strategic financial and operational executive with broad, top-level experience in media and entertainment. Murphy has played a key role in shaping major corporations as well as managing their key infrastructure. Prior to founding IMS, as executive vice president and chief financial officer for Warner Music Group (WGM), she played a pivotal role in Time Warner’s sale of WGM for approximately \$2.6 billion, which created the world’s largest privately held independent music company. Murphy successfully orchestrated WGM’s exit from the recorded music manufacturing business, selling its DVD/CD manufacturing and physical-distribution businesses to Cinram International for \$1.05 billion. At Warner Music Group, Murphy was responsible for the finance, human resources, business development, information technology and real estate functions for its vast network of global music assets. Prior to joining WGM, Murphy was chief financial and administrative officer for Martha Stewart Living Omnimedia, Inc., where she led the company’s highly successful initial public offering. A native of Glasgow, Murphy is a chartered financial analyst (CFA), and has served on the faculty of the University of Guelph in Canada teaching corporate finance and financial management. She received a bachelor’s degree from the University of Guelph and a master’s from the University of Western Ontario. Murphy, married with two children, moved from Canada to the U.S. for career advancement in 1990. Her grandparents hailed from Co. Down, and she has traveled to Ireland twice. “My spirit comes from my Irish heritage and is with me every day in everything I do. That ‘can do’ and ‘work harder’ Irish attitude is responsible for my success and work ethic. I am proud to be Irish,” Murphy says.



LINDA MURRAY

LINDA Murray is the artistic director of Solas Nua, a contemporary Irish arts organization based in Washington, D.C., that brings the best new artistic talent from Ireland to audiences in America through unique programming which includes a full theater season, visual arts exhibitions, literary events including the D.C. Irish Writers Festival, Irish book day, and the Capital Irish Film Festival. A native of Dublin, Murray has degrees from Trinity College Dublin, University College Cork, University of Surrey and London Metropolitan University. She is currently awaiting conferral of a PhD. Murray moved to the U.S. in 2004 for doctoral work. She is married to Dan Brick. “Heritage for me is a living thing instead of a fixed moment in the past. In fact, history shows that we have always been a nation in transition, and I believe that you can’t honestly connect with your Irish heritage until you embrace the complexities of being Irish now. That’s why I look to our artists — they articulate that connective tissue between our past and present,” Murray says. “But whether reflecting on our past or looking toward our future, being Irish is something that I am immensely proud of for all that Irish identity represents — creativity, intelligence, resourcefulness and resilience. And it brings me consistent joy to see all of those attributes so clearly out in force in the work of Ireland’s artistic community today.”



MARGARET O'DONOGHUE

DR. Margaret O'Donoghue is a psychotherapist and adjunct professor at New York University School of Social Work. She has been a professor at NYU for 10 years, and a psychotherapist in private practice in Montclair, New Jersey. She is also a staff trainer for the Newark public schools in New Jersey. A native of Limerick City, Co. Limerick, O'Donoghue received a bachelor’s degree with honors in social science from University College Dublin, a master’s in social work from Hunter College in New York, and a PhD in clinical social work from NYU. O'Donoghue is a former board member of the Irish Professional Counseling Association and the Emerald Isle Immigration Center. O'Donoghue moved to the U.S. in 1982 because of high unemployment in Ireland, and a chance to avail of new opportunities in New York. Married to Randolph Miller, and mother to two children, O'Donoghue visits Limerick each year. “My Irish heritage means a strong connection to family and community. I am the second oldest of nine children and the sense of responsibility of support to others defines my view of life,” she says. “In Limerick, my parents were involved in parish life, supporting neighbors, helping to build a community center and joining parish committees. As a result of this it provided me a sense of the need for all of us to give back.”



SIOBHAN MURPHY

SIOBHAN Murphy is president of the Quest Connection, a speaking, training, coaching and meeting facilitation business designed to transform the modern workplace from battleground to playground. She is an inspirational speaker, senior talent catalyst and master certified coach. Murphy works in the areas of leadership development and skills training, facilitation, executive coaching and corporate retreats. She enjoys transforming client working environments through the use of visioning and intuitive questioning, changing the experience of work for her clients. Murphy’s work has been featured in *Newsday* and *Long Island Business News*, and she has been quoted in *The New York Times*. She has been interviewed on NBC’s *Wall Street Journal Report* with Maria Bartiromo and on several radio programs. The extensive range of clients that have benefited from working with her include AT&T, Polo Ralph Lauren, State Bank of Long Island and several others. A native of the Bronx, Murphy grew up in Babylon, Long Island and is a former piper in the Saffron United Pipe Band. She is also a former stepdancer in the Jerry Mulvihill School of Irish Dancing and the Hibernian Stepdancers. Murphy earned a bachelor’s degree in psychology from Boston College, and a master certified coach designation from the International Coach. Murphy’s parents are natives of Castletownbere, Co. Cork. She has visited Ireland on numerous occasions, and in 2005 she trained a group of professionals in business coaching skills in Carrigaline, Co. Cork. “Being Irish means having a love of song and dance and music with an indomitable spirit to face life’s challenges. It means having a strong *faith* in the inherent goodness of people and that I live in a Universe that is friendly to my dreams,” says Murphy, who is married and has three stepchildren.



IRENE O'DONNELL

IRENE Mary O'Donnell is the director of campus offices services and records management at John Jay College of Criminal Justice/CUNY in New York. John Jay is a liberal arts college dedicated to education, research and service in the fields of criminal justice, fire science and related areas of public safety and public service. A native of Glenties, Co. Donegal, O'Donnell earned a bachelor’s in forensic psychology from John Jay, and a master’s from Baruch/Cornell University. O'Donnell is active in Irish American causes. Since 1996 she’s been a member of the Jerry McCabe Fellowship Breakfast Committee at John Jay which is primarily a fundraiser for the exchange of members of the NYPD and the Irish police force to research public safety initiatives by each agency. This has proven to be a huge success with two Irish officers acquiring master’s degrees from John Jay annually. She is also a former chairperson of the Irish Center in Woodside, and a member of the Donegal Association for many years. O'Donnell travels to Ireland twice a year. “After 31 years in the U.S., Glenties is still home! I’ve lived here longer than I have in Ireland, and Ireland is still home,” she says. “I love when people detect my Irish accent, which I still have, and when they ask me where I am from. Ireland is in my blood and that never changes. “I would not change being a citizen of Ireland ever, and chances are that I will eventually retire there!”



TARA O'GRADY

TARA O'Grady is the program manager at Lincoln Center Institute for the Arts in Education, and a professional singer/recording artist of jazz, blues and folk music. Lincoln Center Institute for the Arts in Education is a not-for profit educational cornerstone of Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts, Inc. LCI is driven by its conviction that the imagination is an essential cognitive skill that can and should be taught. The institute has applied imaginative learning in classrooms for 35 years. A native of Queens, O'Grady earned bachelor’s and master’s degrees from St. John’s University, where she also taught aesthetic education as an adjunct professor. O'Grady’s mother was born in Co. Donegal. Her paternal grandparents hailed from counties Roscommon and Waterford. O'Grady spends her summers in her mother’s house on a farm overlooking her grandparents’ place in Donegal. “I find that Ireland is the only place I can connect to my spirit because New York is filled with distraction. I can feel the spirits of my grandparents who I am certain watch over me daily, whether I’m on the #7 train in Queens that my father’s Roscommon father conducted for 40 years, or on the strand in Donegal listening to the wind,” she says. A member of the Irish Network New York City (IN-NYC) and the Irish Business Organization, O'Grady has just finished recording her debut album called *Black Irish*. “The songs will be familiar to Irish audiences, but the sound is influenced by the likes of Ella Fitzgerald and Billie Holiday and arranged in a swing or blues style. I would not have been able to combine these styles had I not been born of Irish parents in a lively city such as New York,” O'Grady says.



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## NANCY O'MALLON

NANCY O'Mallon is the CEO and president of About Harvest, LLC, a for profit social enterprise using media in formats dedicated to informing, educating and celebrating agri-cultural history, development, and food. About Harvest makes short and long form programs, documentaries, commercials and public service announcements that unearth the history, science and relevance of modern agricultural crops that are grown and har-vested in the U.S. and around the world. A native of New Jersey, O'Mallon is a gradu-ate of Richard Stockton College. She is an award winning writer, producer and director. A fourth generation Irish American, O'Mallon traces her roots to counties Cavan and Cork. She has traveled throughout the

west coast of Ireland and is planning another trip. Married with one daughter, O'Mallon says of her Irish heritage, "There is a mark on my soul made by my Irish ancestors, and I am very proud to carry it. From the time I was a young girl, I heard stories of my relatives and other Irish people who came before me. There were stories of resilience and inner strength. "Shortly after my great grandparents had made New Jersey their home, my great-grandmother was widowed and left destitute with four small children. Like her strong, resilient, creative and intelligent ancestors, she fond ways to not only take care of her family, but to improve their destiny. "When I founded About Harvest in 2009 at the cusp of what would become the world's greatest economic crisis, I did so with my great-grandmother and all my Irish ancestors in my heart."



## MAUREEN O'ROURKE MURPHY

DR. Maureen O'Rourke Murphy is a professor and co-director of the Irish studies program at Hofstra University on Long Island. O'Rourke Murphy, whose Irish grandparents hailed from counties Leitrim and Longford, is a past president of the American Conference on Irish Studies, and a past chair of the International Association for the Study of Irish Literatures. She is also a board member of the Emerald Isle Immigration Center. O'Rourke Murphy earned a bachelor's degree from SUNY Cortland, and master's and PhD from Indiana University.

A widow, O'Rourke Murphy has made annual visits to Ireland since 1961, traveling to various parts of the country four to five times a year. She also studied at UCD in Dublin from 1965-'66. "Ireland is the center of my life. It is what has defined me as a person," she says.



## LYNN RHATIGAN McVEY

LYNN Rhatigan McVey is vice president of ancillary services and the emergency department at Meadowlands Hospital MHA, LLC in Secaucus, New Jersey. MHA, LLC is purchasing Meadowlands Hospital this summer and will use a unique approach in dealing with patients. The hospital's physicians will use evidence-based medicine when treating patients, and Meadowlands Hospital will be a beacon of information-technology that keeps patients much safer than when verbal communication and handwriting on paper is used. A native of Brooklyn, Rhatigan McVey earned a master's degree in healthcare administration from the College of St. Elizabeth in Morristown, New Jersey. Rhatigan McVey is third generation Irish American.

She traces her ancestry to Co. Roscommon and Magherafelt, Co. Derry. She has visited Ireland twice with her daughter Murphy Maureen, who will begin studying at University College Galway this fall. "Obviously, as my only child, her mom will be visiting Ireland plenty!" Rhatigan McVey says. Being Irish, Rhatigan McVey says, has helped to move her forward both profes-sionally and socially. "I am very proud to be Irish and everyone who knows me knows it. I have inherited the love of verse and prose, which has made me quite influential in business settings," she says. "I have also inherited fearlessness, which is another great Irish trait. Socially, I am the first to find the craic and the music, which makes me very popular. Of course I have never worked on St. Patrick's Day and never missed the pride of the parade. "Looking back now, with gauges to compare, my family has been steadfast and I credit that to being Irish. Staying together as an Irish family is an absolute. There are no other options."



## MARY O'RIORDAN RODGERS

MARY O'Riordan Rodgers is the CEO of Stateside Solutions, a full service recruitment firm specializing in market entry set up and recruitment for foreign com-panies expanding into the U.S. marketplace. With the company's knowledge and expertise of the U.S. market, Stateside has created the "Stateside Starter Program" which is a suite of services tailored to companies expanding into the U.S. market, provid-ing guidance on all aspects of setting up operations from company registration to processing payroll.

A native of Co. Limerick, O'Riordan Rodgers attended the National University of Ireland at Galway and the Galway-Mayo Institute of Technology, earning a bachelor's degree in economics and a diploma in marketing. "I graduated in 1993 when there was little or no work opportunities in Ireland. I was lucky enough to have a U.S. passport and headed to New York," O'Riordan Rodgers says. "After some early jobs I was fortunate to establish my career with the guidance and sup-port of another Irish American, Margaret Rowe. Nearly 20 years on, it is interesting to see the cycle is repeating itself and how America and the Irish diaspora are once again sup-porting each other and the new Irish emigrants." Stateside has offices in New York and Galway, so O'Riordan Rodgers travels back and forth frequently. She and her husband Charlie have two daughters. "I am extremely proud to be Irish, and it is something I am even more appreciative of hav-ing traveled and worked abroad. Our long-standing reputation as honest and hard working people has opened many doors for me in business," O'Riordan Rodgers says. "There is a great willingness to help and see each other succeed among the Irish diaspora and the countless Irish organizations. Personally and professionally I feel fortunate to be part of the large global Irish network."



## KATHY O'NEAL

KATHY O'Neal is senior vice president of Clubcorp, which owns and operates private country clubs and din-ing clubs nationwide and internationally. The company has over 150 private clubs and more than 300,000 mem-bers. Among the clubs and resorts it owns are the Firestone Country Club in Mission Hills, California, Aspen Glen in Colorado and many others. A native of Corpus Christi, Texas, O'Neal earned a bachelor's degree at the University of Texas Austin, and a master's from Southern Methodist University. O'Neal is responsible for new, innovative concepts sur-rounding private club development, membership enrollment and member retention.

She is an accomplished author and speaker in the club industry, often presenting at annual conferences of the Club Managers Association of America, Private Club Marketing Association and the National Golf Course Owners Association on cutting-edge information in sales and marketing for the private club industry. She was the first woman ever to lecture and speak to the China Club Managers in 2009. She has been invited to return to present a Private Club sales and marketing seminar in October of 2010. Married with two college-age children, O'Neal's two grandfathers were born in Killala, Co. Mayo and Co. Kilkenny. She has traveled to Ireland on business, and professes deep pride in her roots. "I am blessed to be 100% Irish and have always been so proud of my Irish heritage. My cousin, Congressman James Walsh of New York, played a major role in the Irish peace ini-tiatives under the Clinton regime," O'Neal says. "Typically Irish, we have large families and get together as often as possible to celebrate family and our Irish heritage."



## SHARON SCHATUNG CLARKE

SHARON Schartung Clarke is the president of Meda Pharmaceuticals in central New Jersey. Meda is a division of a global pharmaceuticals company with headquarters in Solna, Sweden. Meda is ranked 50 in the world of pharmaceutical sales. Schartung Clarke has more than 21 years of sales, sales training and sales management experience within the pharmaceutical industry. She plays a key leadership role in the company's sales planning, organizational development and market analysis activities, and was recognized in 2006 as an HBA Rising Star. Schartung Clarke holds a bachelor's degree, magna cum laude, in microbiology and chemistry from

East Tennessee State University. Schartung Clarke has visited Ireland in the past, and traces her Irish roots to Co. Kerry. "My Irish heritage has been handed down through many generations of the Riney family. Stories have been kept alive through grandparents to families through nine generations, as my children know about their Irish heritage," she says. "The stories of immigration to the U.S. during a time of Catholic persecution have been preserved. Our genealogy traces back to a time when the church was not able to keep records of family births and deaths, so our information is limited beyond that point. I am proud to know the strength of my ancestors and to carry that on to my children today." Schartung Clarke is married with three children.



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## CATHERINE MARY SHANNON



CATHERINE Mary Shannon is a registered nurse and family nurse practitioner, and the director of infection prevention and employee health services, at St. Catherine of Siena Medical Center, a 311-bed community hospital in Smithtown, Long Island.

A native of Rockaway Beach, Shannon received a diploma as a registered nurse in 1971 from St. John's Queens Hospital School of Nursing. She attended St. Joseph College on Long Island and graduated in 1997 with a bachelor's in community health and human Services. In 1999 she earned a master's in nursing from Columbia University.

Shannon's father hailed from Rathmore, Co.

Kerry. Her maternal grandparents came from Gneeveguilla and Rathbeg in Kerry.

"My maternal grandmother ran a rooming house in Rockaway Beach and housed many Irish immigrants as they came to New York. My parents were married in St. Rose's in Rockaway Beach," Shannon says.

"This was where my brothers and I were raised, steeped in the Irish culture that makes me who I am today. My parents made numerous trips back and after my father's retirement they moved back to Ireland where they remained for many years in Kerry. When grandchildren arrived, my parents returned to New York."

Shannon is widowed. She has two adult sons, Jason and Jeremy, and one infant grandson Brody, who she calls the "apple of my eye."

While growing up Shannon played the fife and bagpipes. "When I take my knowledge in Irish history, family, music and put it all together and create who I am today—a person who knows that she is a proud Irish American, who is now passing this heritage on to her children and grandchildren," she says.

## CIARA SMYTH



CIARA Smyth is executive vice president and chief human Resources Officer for Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company in New York. Smyth was born in Dublin, and has been instrumental in the growth of HMH (formerly Riverdeep) in the past decade. Under her stewardship, HMH has transformed its talent agenda through a strategic and focused approach to realizing employee potential at all levels of the organization.

With Cap Gemini she is a founding member and co-chair of an industry network group for women in media and publishing, a quarterly forum focused on developing women leaders within the industry. She is also the founder and executive sponsor of the

Women's Leadership Program at HMH.

Upon graduation from University College Dublin and the University of Essex in the U.K., Smyth emigrated to the U.S. in 1994.

"I had the privilege for the past 11 years of working for an indigenous Irish company which has successfully established itself in the U.S. and globally," says Smyth, who visits Ireland six times a year for work and pleasure and says that her Irish heritage has contributed to her success.

"I also feel I am a product of Ireland and that my professional success has been made possible because of the education and upbringing I received in Ireland," she says.

Smyth champions several Irish humanitarian causes abroad.

She is a board member of Self Help Africa, an Irish development agency that aims to help Africans become self-sufficient through long-term development programs. She is also an advisory board member to Goal USA, the U.S. arm of the Irish humanitarian agency Goal. This is the second year Smyth has made the list of the *Irish Voice's* Most Influential Women. "It's an honor to be listed again with such amazingly talented Irish and Irish American women," she says.

## TARA SULLIVAN



TARA Sullivan is the vice president of ad sales marketing for the Food Network and Cooking Channel, owned by Scripps Networks. Since launching HGTV in 1994, Scripps Networks has become the leader in lifestyle media, developing some of the most relevant content available on television, the Internet and satellite radio, in books and magazines, and on today's emerging media platforms. A native of Brooklyn, Sullivan creates sales strategies, sponsorship and promotional opportunities for the Food Network and Cooking Channel, and oversees the development of integrated programming and marketing alliances with national advertisers. She has guided the formation of marketing relationships with Food Network talent, including Guy Fieri's partnership with TGI Friday's. *Mediaweek* cited efforts such as these in nam-

## RACHEL SHELLY



RACHEL Shelly is the vice president of IDA Ireland based in New York. IDA Ireland is the economic development agency of the Irish government, with responsibility for attracting inward investment from overseas companies. IDA provides support and services to 1,000 multinational companies with operations in Ireland, around half of which are headquartered in the U.S.

A native of Dublin, Shelly is a graduate of three Dublin institutions — the College of Commerce in Rathmines, the Institute of Technology in Tallaght, and DIT in Aungier Street. She holds a bachelor's in marketing management, and a master's in strategic management.

Shelly moved to the U.S. in 2006 to

work as a marketing executive in IDA Ireland's New York office. She is a member of the Irish Network New York City (IN-NYC).

"Ireland has a long and storied history, from the ancient myths and Celts, to the island of saints and scholars, to the vibrant and cosmopolitan country we have today," Shelly says of her native land.

"Irish people have long combined resilience, hard work and tenacity with creativity and a little bit of magic. And we have always shown great pride in being Irish — pride in our small country's openness and adaptability, and pride in our contribution to the world at large."

## DENISE SULLIVAN MORRISON



DENISE Sullivan Morrison is president of the Campbell Soup Company's North America Soup, Sauces and Beverages division.

Campbell Soup Company is a global manufacturer and marketer of high-quality food and simple meals, including soup, baked snacks and healthy beverages.

Sullivan Morrison leads the Campbell USA, North America Foodservice, and Campbell Canada businesses, which represent approximately \$4.9 billion of the company's net sales and nearly 90% of the company's profits. She is also a member of Campbell's corporate leadership team.

She has earned several prestigious awards, including the Trailblazer Award from *Philadelphia Magazine* this year, and Top Woman in Grocery from *Progressive Grocer* magazine, 2008, 2009, and 2010. She was also one of the Top 50 Women in Business in New Jersey, from *NJBIZ* magazine in 2008, and one of the Top 50 Women to Watch from *The Wall Street Journal* in 2007.

A native of Elberon, New Jersey, Sullivan Morrison earned a bachelor's degree in economics and psychology from Boston College.

Sullivan Morrison is a second generation Irish American who traces her ancestry to counties Cork and Mayo. She traveled throughout the country on a visit there. Last year she spoke to the Irish Chamber of Commerce in Philadelphia, and was recently recognized as an Inspirational Irish Women with a painting from Pat Gallagher and from the Commodore John Barry Society Irish Center in Philadelphia.

Married with two daughters, Sullivan Morrison says that her Irish heritage is "special. The Irish are a people of great warmth, intelligence, and good family values. Irish women are strong, but feminine. I am proud to be Irish."

ing Food Network to its 2008 Cable Hot List, praising the network for its creative integrated sponsorship packages.

Before joining Scripps Networks in 2003, Sullivan served as an account supervisor with McCann-Erickson/MRM Partners, and served in marketing roles for Turner Broadcasting System International, the Lord Group and Advertising Women of New York. Sullivan's maternal grandparents were born in counties Roscommon and Clare. She traces her paternal Irish roots to counties Tipperary and Kerry.

Sullivan has visited Ireland twice, once as a child ("We thought the ketchup was sweet, and found it oh-so different to put butter on tea sandwiches! I loved every moment," she recalls), and in 1993 with a friend.

"My Irish heritage is a tremendous part of who I am. My grandparents left Ireland but they did not leave the culture behind, and we always relished the stories and music of their childhoods," says Sullivan.

"The culture was important to my family, as it remains to me. I studied Irish stepdancing as a child, and still enjoy a good set dance.

"And in 1998-99, I studied the Gaelic language, and was a charter member (in fact, I was the chathaoirleach) of the Manhattan branch of the Conradh na Gaeilge, where we held several fundraising events, including a ceili and performances. While the branch did not gain the momentum we needed to thrive in New York, it was an amazing experience, and a thorough immersion into the culture."



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*Thank you from all of us for your friendship,  
and engaging humor, and for your hard work &  
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**DAWN SWEENEY**

DAWN Sweeney is the president and CEO of the National Restaurant Association and National Restaurant Association Educational Foundation in Washington, D.C. Founded in 1991, the National Restaurant Association is the leading business association for the restaurant industry, which is comprised of 945,000 restaurant and foodservice outlets and a workforce of 13 million employees. Together with the National Restaurant Association Educational Foundation, the association works to lead the U.S. restaurant industry into a new era of prosperity, prominence, and participation, enhancing the quality of life for all it serves.

A native of Portland, Maine, Sweeney earned a bachelor's degree from Colby College in Maine, and a master's from George Washington University. Sweeney, a second generation Irish American, traces her Irish roots to Cork, Belfast and Galway. "From my earliest memories as a child, I have been enormously proud of my Irish heritage. My grandfather would tell me about his youth in Ireland and I remember bursting with pride that I was too Irish. To this day my favorite holiday is St. Patrick's Day!" Sweeney says. Married with one child, Sweeney is a board member of Save the Children, a member of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce "Committee of 100," a member of the Women's International Forum, and a member of the Honor Society of the American Culinary Federation's American Academy of Chefs.



**JACINTA TOBIN**

JACINTA Tobin is senior vice president of worldwide sales and business development at Cloudmark, Inc. in San Francisco, the world's leading provider of security solutions, protecting over one billion users in 190 countries from spam, phishing and viruses. Cloudmark's customers include MySpace, Microsoft, Comcast, Time Warner, France Telecom and AT&T. As head of sales, Tobin has grown company revenues by 10 times, securing a leadership position for Cloudmark in its industry.

A native of Kilmaley, Ennis, Co. Clare, Tobin earned a bachelor's in international marketing and languages from Dublin City University.

One of the reasons why she moved to the U.S. in 2000, she says, was to be closer to home. "I was living in

Australia at the time so coming to the U.S. was one step closer. I have always had a love of the U.S. and enjoy the innate sense of optimism here," Tobin says.

A member of the Irish Network of San Francisco, Tobin says her best preparation for the corporate world was working in her parents' bar and shop, Tobin's in Kilmaley, where they taught her to always put the customer first and always strive to be the best.

"Being Irish instills in you a steely determination to be who you are, while at the same time giving you the ability to laugh at yourself. Also, most importantly, being Irish means truly caring about and valuing other people," Tobin says.

Outside of the corporate world, Tobin has spent time on TV presenting an Irish motor sports program, and on stage, most recently playing Gerty in James Joyce's *Ulysses* for a Bloomsday celebration.



**EILEEN WALSH O'SHEA**

EILEEN Walsh O'Shea is the partner in charge of audit learning and development, and the partner in charge of NYO insurance practice, for KPMG LLP in New York. KPMG provides audit, tax and advisory services, delivering a globally consistent set of multidisciplinary financial and accounting capabilities based on deep industry knowledge.

Walsh O'Shea has been with KPMG for over 30 years. She was the first woman audit partner in the firm's New York office. She is responsible for training the firm's 9,000 audit professionals, development of the audit technical curriculum and client training opportunities.

A native of the Bronx, Walsh O'Shea earned a bachelor's in accounting, cum laude, from Fordham University.

She is a CPA in New York and New Jersey.

Walsh O'Shea's mother hailed from Kilmihill, Co. Clare. Her father came from Castlebar, Co. Mayo. She has traveled extensively in Ireland several times, and has supported the American Ireland Fund, Irish humanitarian group Concern, and various St. Patrick's events through KPMG.

Walsh O'Shea and her sister were Irish stepdancers growing up. "We learned every Irish song by heart, with a particular emphasis on 'The Darling Girl from Clare,' and 'Take Me Home to Mayo,'" she recalls.

"On Sundays our parents would take us to the Pilgrim Hall in the Bronx, which was an Irish ancestry meeting hall, where we would meet other Irish families and dance, sing and tell Irish stories all afternoon.

"Growing up in the Bronx, which was an Irish enclave in the 1960s and 1970s, I attended Mt. St. Ursula. Many of my classmates, who are still life-long friends, were also first generation Irish, so the shamrock culture was happily imbedded both at home and in school. "To this day, I am proud to wear the moniker of 'BIC' (Bronx Irish Catholic). These years were some of the best of my life."

Walsh O'Shea and her husband, Dan O'Shea, have three children, Megan, Katie and Danny. They march in the St. Patrick's Day Parade in New York every year.



**MARIBETH WELSH**

MARIBETH Welsh is the executive director of the Irish Georgian Society, which was founded in 1958 to protect what left of Georgian architecture in Ireland and to stimulate an interest in Irish art, silver and furniture of the Georgian period. In recent years, the scope has expanded to include distinguished examples of architecture and the allied arts of all periods in Ireland.

A native of New York, Welsh grew up on Long Island and then pursued a career in the beauty business, where she ultimately became the vice president of marketing for Clinique Labs, the groundbreaking division of Estee Lauder.

After 21 years, Welsh dove into the non-profit world in a variety of pivotal roles, including director of special events for the Legal Aid Society in New York

before being tapped as executive director of the Irish Georgian Society.

Under her leadership, the society has not only expanded its membership but has also become a marquee name among the most respected architectural conservation and preservation organizations in the country.

With sellout events in New York, Washington, D.C., Boston, Chicago and Palm Beach, along with the publication of spectacular books and the organization of trips to Ireland, Welsh has done much to promote Irish culture in the U.S. while engaging thousands in the pursuit of preserving Ireland's architectural masterpieces.

Welsh's maternal grandparents were born in Dingle, Co. Kerry; her mother was born in the U.S., but raised in Ireland. Her father's ancestors came to the U.S. in the early 1800s. She is a member of Glucksman Ireland House at New York University, and travels to Ireland every year for business.

"I am lucky — my job enables me on a daily basis to play a role in preserving Ireland's deep cultural heritage," says Welsh.

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