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Foreword

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Foreword

By Maura Grace Harrington

We are proud to launch *Studies on the Irish-American Experience in New Jersey and New York* with this collection of articles that represents talks given at Seton Hall University in South Orange, NJ through the *Irish Studies Discussion Series (ISDS)*, which is sponsored by the campus Irish cultural society, *Pirates of Irish Persuasion & Extraction (PIPE)*.

In October of 2010, my colleague Marta Deyrup mentioned to me that since the quality of the presentations that our volunteers give through the *ISDS* is very high, and the presentations are so well received by a wide audience, we should consider soliciting essays about these topics, all of which are of interest to the New Jersey and New York Irish-American community, and combine the essays into a book. We were so pleased with the quality of the essays we collected, and we were especially happy when our collection yielded essays of two distinct types that could be used in two separate publications. The first group consisted of traditional academic essays (which were published earlier this month by Lexington Books as *The Irish-American Experience in New Jersey and Metropolitan New York: Cultural Identity, Hybridity, and Commemoration*.¹ The second group of essays was decidedly more conversational in tone, and these essays were produced by practitioners in specific fields of the Irish-American cultural experience: dance, theatre, law, and music.

In this issue, we present a survey of Irish dance in our local area, as presented by Marta Mestrovic Deyrup; a history of the Celtic Theatre Company in South Orange, NJ by Jim Moore and an interview, conducted by Henry McMillan LaGue, with its founder and artistic director, James P. McGlone; a discussion of lawyers of note, in the past and in the present, in our local area, as well as some of the key legal and political battlegrounds they've entered, by Brendan P. McCarthy, Domhnall Ó' Catháin, and Eric Fitzsimmons; and a celebration of the traditional Irish music scene by musicians Peter L. Ford and Lawrence E. McCullough.

We are very grateful to the contributors who have made both the book and this inaugural issue of the journal possible, and we look forward to receiving submissions of articles from those involved in and interested in the Irish-American community in New Jersey and New York.

We invite you to peruse these pages and enjoy some fresh and first-hand perspectives on Irish-American culture in our area. And we look forward to welcoming others into the conversation.

¹ Please see <http://bit.ly/18B2hsU> for details about the book *The Irish-American Experience in New Jersey and Metropolitan New York: Cultural Identity, Hybridity, and Commemoration*.