

Chantel Cassidy

Sealed Air, Strategic Channel Sales Manager

AGE: 28

WHERE WERE YOU BORN?

Boston, Massachusetts

HOW LONG HAVE YOU LIVED IN CHARLOTTE AREA?

We moved down here in 1996. I went to Myers Park High School and then left to go to college at North Carolina State University in Raleigh – GO PACK!

TELL US A LITTLE BIT MORE ABOUT YOU?

To know me is really to know and understand where I came from. Both of my parents immigrated from Ireland in the 80s, so I am a first generation American and dual citizen to the United States and Ireland. I'm also a first-gen high school grad and first-gen college grad. My parents had a strong will and work ethic to build a secure and better life. Their success is impressive beyond measure and they're the toughest people I know. The epitome of the American Dream. I've been given opportunities and chances that I know not every first generation American has or will receive and I will never take that for granted. The Irish mentality is that our blood is proud and tough, and we are bound by our endurance. It's a mindset that has molded me into who I am today.

I was a competitive Irish Dancer for 15 years, years which were filled with plenty of domestic and international travel to competitions, and of course broken toes and sprained ankles. It gave me incredible memories and lifelong friendships. Plus, some nice hardware that is sitting in my parent's attic for the Southern Regional Championship wins and National and World Championship level rankings. We never lost touch with our Irish culture and I think that's so special.

DURING YOUR TIME VOLUNTEERING FOR A COMMUNITY ACTIVITY OR PROJECT, WHAT IS YOUR MOST MEMORABLE MOMENT?

I grew up in a tight knit Irish community so when I won the 2015 North Carolina Rose of Tralee, it opened a lot of doors to how I could give back to a community that had given so much to me. In 2016 when I became President of the North Carolina branch of the international organization, The International Rose of Tralee, it gave me the opportunity to organize events that would benefit the Irish community in Charlotte. This year there was an event to support Darkness into Light, an Irish campaign for mental health awareness and suicide prevention that started in Ireland and has expanded to the Irish diaspora around the globe. It's closely tied to the Rose of Tralee, so it's been an important part of my life for years and each time is more memorable than the last. Mental health is a priority to me, and it's been a part of my personal story for as long as I can remember. The mission of the organization provides mental health support services for people who need them, where they need them, when they need them. The sun comes up as you're walking, and you realize how much light is left in the world. It's a powerful feeling to become aware in that way and know that around the world, as the sun rises, others can feel that too.

Sustain Charlotte is another organization that I love to support. Last year a group of my friends participated in Biketoberfest and we're doing it again this October. Last year there was a downpour and some mechanical issues, but it was a beautiful day to bike around the Queen City and raise money and awareness for a sustainable future!

IN YOUR OPINION, HOW DO YOU CONTRIBUTE TO THE COMMUNITY? PLEASE BE AS DETAILED AS YOU CAN.

I'm available. If you need support, call me. It's as simple as that. Part of contributing to the community is being present knowing what your community needs and how you can help, whether that's getting your elderly neighbors groceries or getting to know the people who make your coffee by name. I grew up in Charlotte and I love to see this city thrive.

PLEASE LET US KNOW ANY AWARDS OR RECOGNITIONS YOU'VE RECEIVED IN YOUR PROFESSIONAL CAREER:

- Executive Steering Board for WERG - Women's Employee Resource Group at Sealed Air
- Territory Business Specialist for Major Accounts - Responsible for Eastern NA Territory, 2019

WHAT ARE YOUR HOBBIES OR INTEREST?

I love to bake. There is something therapeutic about putting on an apron and making something from scratch. My mom is fantastic in the kitchen, and I grew up helping her in any way that I could. She believed that there was no such thing as boredom and that following a recipe was a great way to stimulate your mind. Making food for others is my love language and one of my favorite ways to spend time.

I brew my own beer with two of my close friends! We have had some pretty good ones over the years. I love to make resin art. I just made two side tables for my home that I am very excited about. I'm a huge fan of organizing and cleaning (I'm completely aware that someone will roll their eyes when they read that, and I don't blame you.) I love to experience new places and people... whether that's down the street or across the pond, I'm here for it. I have the sweetest little puppy and we spend a lot of time together walking the South End Rail Trail.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE QUOTE THAT YOU STAND BY?

"What is meant for you will not pass you"

WHERE DO YOU SEE YOURSELF IN 5 YEARS? 10 YEARS?

When I was 22 and entering the work force, I knew that I wanted to push myself professionally and prove that I deserve a seat at the table. I had no idea what that table looked like but I like the one I'm at now, even if I did have to bring my own chair. I don't entirely believe in the notion of setting expectations for what is to come or think in time spans of 5 or 10 years. I prefer to set an intention and live with that in mind. I'm excited for my future but I'm even more excited for today and the moment that I'm living in.

CAN YOU SHARE ONE THING THAT IS ON YOUR BUCKET LIST?

I'll share two: Visit Snæfellsjökull National Park in Iceland and be in the Saturday Night Live audience.

WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME YOU USED YOUR PASSPORT?

Ireland - September 6th, 2019

WHAT IS A FUN FACT ABOUT YOURSELF THAT NO ONE KNOWS?

It's a Rose of Tralee tradition that every Rose has their name on the Rose Wall. My name is etched into a glass wall in Tralee, Co. Kerry, Ireland.

WHO IS YOUR HERO?

My younger sister. She is strong, empathetic, and wicked smart. She also makes me laugh harder than anyone else. I'm so lucky to go through life with her.

WHAT WAS THE LAST BOOK YOU READ?

Conversations with Friends by Sally Rooney

WHAT WAS THE LAST MOVIE YOU SAW?

Promising Young Woman

WHAT WAS THE LAST CONCERT YOU SAW?

We were in DeBordieu for our family beach trip and my mum, and I stumbled upon a Rolling Stones cover band at a bar. It was good time!

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