

# THE STANNER

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*The Senior Issue!*

*Congratulations*

# CLASS OF 2024!



# Molloy Congratulates Its '24 Valedictorian

by RJ Mejia '25

Through their four academically and spiritually enriching years at Molloy, members of the Class of 2024 have all worked hard to accomplish the most they could. Among the many who reflect on the trials and tribulations that they've overcome and learned from to reach this point, **Stephen Tsimisiris '24** emerges as king of the hill. Stephen is the proud Valedictorian of the Class of 2024, demonstrating that the fruits of one's labor can truly lead to an incredible result.

Stephen will be attending Binghamton University and plans to study business through Binghamton's School of Management. Even though he is in top academic standing, Stephen has had to overcome academic challenges and difficult coursework like the rest of the Molloy student body. "Some of these academic challenges were AP World History sophomore year and AP Calculus BC senior year," he explains. "Although these were courses I found very difficult, they taught me that it is necessary to put more effort into where I struggle to achieve my goals." It's impossible to reach perfection, but Stephen never let that discourage him throughout his academic career at Molloy. As he states, "There are always highs and lows in accomplishing goals," and perfection, although idealistic, is merely an ideal.

He may be the Valedictorian, but there's much more to Stephen than his GPA. He has been involved in many extracurricular activities at Molloy, ranging from being a Campus Ministry Leader to a Track & Field athlete. In fact, he attributes these two activities to his



overall performance as he states, "I also believe that Campus Ministry and track contributed heavily to my success, as they were able to give me a good balance between spirituality, athletics, and academics, which helped me avoid academic burnout." This balance has allowed Stephen to manage his stress well, as there was no one aspect of him that was neglected or given too much attention. Creative and physical ventures are just as important to him as academic ventures. He was even inspired to learn the guitar from Mr. DaGrossa's Music Appreciation class in freshman year.

Not only has Stephen found it in himself to succeed, but he appreciates the tools that Molloy has given him in order to help himself and his community be greater people. "Molloy has given me the opportunity to create memorable moments that I will remember for the rest of my life," he notes, "such as my first time being a special camp counselor, my Marist Youth Encounters,

and my trips to Adidas Nationals and Penn Relays with my track team." These notable experiences have given Stephen invaluable memories and insight into the real world. He feels as though his time at Molloy has embodied its motto of Non Scholae Sed Vitae, and he is forever grateful to Molloy for what it has provided to him. Stephen states, "Molloy has given me the chance to meet new people and open up into who I am today, through socialization and leading in peer groups, retreats, and camps."

As the year closes and Stephen enters the next chapter in his life, he wishes to leave some words of wisdom for his peers and the rising seniors of the Class of 2025. "High school doesn't last forever, so make the most of it while you can," he remarks. "Although academics should be the main priority, you should find a balance between academics and extracurricular activities, because the extracurricular activities are going to be where some of the most memorable moments of high school take place." Especially looking forward, Stephen is still a bit unsure about his plans. "College is a long process and I am not completely sure where God will take me," he says, "but as of now, I would like to get my MBA and create a career somewhere that involves investing or the stock market."

As the Class of 2024 departs from Molloy and embarks on their journey through college and beyond, Stephen stands out as an exemplary student and a role model for someone we should all strive to match.

# Molloy Congratulates Its '24 Salutatorian

by Bryana Quintero '25

Introducing **Amanda Fricke '24**, the Salutatorian for the 2024 graduating class! She is a well-rounded senior, who has excelled academically at Molloy and will be attending Stony Brook University. Amanda plans to major in health science and is even planning to join their Radiologic Technology Clinical Concentration Program her senior year.

When asked about what activities she enjoys outside of school, she states, "I mostly like to practice volleyball and bake. I love to try new baking recipes." In school, Amanda has truly enjoyed her time singing and being a part of the chorus at Molloy, as well as being a part of the Asian Club. She says, "I always enjoy going to both to enjoy my culture and appreciate music with friends."

During her time at Molloy, Amanda has learned how important communication is. She explains, "Asking questions, reaching out to teachers or counselors is greatly beneficial," and learning communication is especially significant when it comes to "something you need guidance on for class or college." As a senior, Amanda's advice to the juniors and underclassmen is "to try new things and put yourself out there." She



explains that it can lead you to better possibilities, and can help you discover a passion of yours that you might pursue in the future.

When asked about the teachers Amanda appreciates, she states how she finds it admirable when someone is enthusiastic about what they do, and how she has had several teachers who genuinely love what they teach. One being Mr. Kelly, as he always said, "Read to understand, not to get it done." She describes how much Mr. Kelly has impacted her enjoyment of

reading and finding the deeper meaning of books and stories. Amanda explains, "Listening to him share his own experiences and giving advice for ours was really helpful and put into perspective the reality of the world we are stepping into." Another teacher that has been a great influence on Amanda is Ms. Murdocca. She says, "I looked forward to her class everyday. I enjoyed discussing and highlighting the reality of the world that people don't want to face through literature." Amanda's biggest passion is science, and Mr. Lombardi is one teacher, she explains, who has fostered this enthusiasm in his students. In classes like Biology and Anatomy & Physiology, Amanda talks about how "you can tell he enjoys what he teaches, and it makes me enjoy the subject even more," and that "he is always extremely thorough in his descriptions of each topic."

Amanda has worked so hard and achieved so much, and we are eager to follow her progress as she pursues her goals. There is no limit to how much Amanda can achieve, and her status as salutatorian is a great starting point for the next steps in her journey. We are eager to see what her future holds. Congratulations, Amanda!



# Scholarships For Upcoming Seniors

by Amy Vu '25

Freshmen, sophomores, and juniors at Molloy have always looked up to seniors. Maybe as role models, friends, counselors, peer group leaders, or as someone they literally had to look up to. With the seniors' last day of classes on May 22nd and their graduation on June 2nd, juniors are now faced with anxious thoughts about classes, extracurriculars, college, and maybe most importantly, how to pay for college. Well, seniors Annie Bacani, Joseph Castaño-Medina, Fabio Colindres, Romulus Czernisz, and others worked hard throughout their high school careers, and it is greatly reflected in their acceptance into college through the Posse Foundation, Questbridge, and Macaulay Honors College. These organizations have allowed for them to attend all four years of undergrad for free. In being role models, Annie, Joe, Fabio, Rom, and the other scholarship recipients have words of advice and encouragement for upcoming seniors and any underclassmen hoping to plan their college journey early.

The Posse Foundation says that it "identifies, recruits, and trains individuals with extraordinary leadership potential," and Molloy seniors Annie and Fabio were identified as individuals with extraordinary leadership potential. Because of this, they will be leaving Molloy in June and going to Brandeis University and the University of Wisconsin-Madison in August when their first semester of college starts. In order to help upcoming seniors, Annie and Fabio shared their high school and application experiences. Both Annie and Fabio had excellent extracurricular activities and experiences that made them stand out in their application. Annie believes that her "involvement in both extracurricular activities inside and outside of Molloy truly helped [her] stand apart from the crowd."

However, she believes that the way she was able to "express the substantial leadership roles [she embodies] in each one" and her Personal Statement "conveyed more about [her] experiences and character," making her stand out by "offering a unique perspective" of everything that was portrayed in her application. Fabio also thinks that his extracurricular activities made him stand out, but specifically his "experience working in teams due to the summer programs [he] did." Joe, on the other hand, applied to Questbridge. Questbridge's National College Match allows for students with a high level of academic achievement that meets or exceeds the admission standards of their colleges to apply for scholarships. Like Annie, Joe found that his writing really made him stand out in his application, making "the most out of every word count that [he] was given." This was especially helpful towards his application since he felt as if the Questbridge application gave him enough space to truly showcase his personality. As for Rom – who applied to the Macaulay Honors College at CUNY – he felt as if his "overall well-roundedness made [him] stand out" as well as his many hours of volunteer work.

As for deciding which one of these programs to apply to, each of these seniors have shared what attracted them to what they applied for. Both Annie and Fabio found that they really liked the Posse Scholarship's comprehensive support system. This system provides a network encompassing pre-collegiate training, workshops, and other immersive experiences. Annie finds that the assistance that Posse offers through this system before arriving on campus is "unlike any other in terms of ensuring student success." Fabio also appreciates the connections that the Posse Foundation

offers because of how he was able to connect with other people from New York and get to know them before he goes off to college. Rom, who applied to Macaulay Honors, a highly selective college program where New York's most promising students receive the financial and academic support to realize their leadership potential, loved how they also offer internships and study abroad opportunities, as well as close guided mentorship along with a full tuition scholarship. In addition, while Joe did appreciate the amount of space he was given to truly showcase his personality, he didn't appreciate the fact that Questbridge only allowed him to list five extracurriculars, which forced him to think about what he really wanted to mention in order to show what was truly valuable to him.

However, even if these seniors inspire you in any aspect or if you look up to them as a role model for many academic or non-academic reasons, it's important to remember that you should be doing your own research and individual work when looking for scholarships or colleges to apply for. It's also important to remember that while you're in high school, prioritize your happiness and take risks, whether that be joining the club you were nervous to join or signing up for that school monitored trip abroad. All of these seniors were high-performing academic students, yet they recognized that wasn't the only way they would be evaluated. They realized they also need to focus on their other commitments. Those commitments could be volunteering at the New York-Presbyterian Queens Hospital like Annie, managing a school club like Joe, participating in summer programs like Fabio, or being involved on sports teams and Campus Ministry like Rom. Just remember to prioritize what's important to you.

## Seniors Reflect On High School Years

by Gabriella Savino '24, Editor-In-Chief

Senior year – as much as it is about preparing to move on, it is equally defined by reflecting on where we started. From freshman year to now, seniors have been shaping and molding themselves into who they are today. With the end of high school inching closer and closer, seniors are starting to feel this chapter coming to a close. Reflect alongside current seniors Chiara Pullara, Adam Gallagher, Lucas Tsang, Beatrice Armand, and Christopher Dalton.

### What is your favorite Molloy memory?

**Chiara:** To single out a favorite memory at Molloy seems impossible, especially when there are thousands of memories to choose from. Some of my favorites were my weeks spent at Freshman Camp, the annual Cultural Fair, the laughs shared with my friends, and the simple smiles spread in the hallways.

**Adam:** My favorite memory at Molloy is going to Esopus for the first time on my Junior Retreat last January.

**Lucas:** Late night conversations in the Senior Dorm at Freshman Camp (sorry Mr. Kelly).

**Beatrice:** My favorite memory at Molloy would have to be during my junior year, the Class of '24 beat the Class of '23 in tug of war during Spirit Games.

**Chris:** Being a counselor at Freshman Camp.

### What are you going to miss about Molloy?

**Chiara:** I am going to miss the incredible sense of community, all of the fun activities, and the friendly, familiar faces.

**Adam:** I'm going to miss the aspects of Molloy that make it so different from every other school. Things such as Esopus, Peer Groups, and Spirit Week provided me with countless memories that I will cherish for the rest of my life and that could not have been made anywhere else.

**Lucas:** Having a home outside of my own home.

**Beatrice:** I will miss being a Spirit Leader. I'm also going to miss the connections that I made with my teachers.

**Chris:** My track team and Esopus.

### Sum up your Molloy experience in one word.

**Chiara:** Enthralling

**Adam:** Change

**Lucas:** Nurturing

**Beatrice:** Memorable

**Chris:** Special

### What are you most looking forward to after Molloy?

**Chiara:** After Molloy, I am excited to continue my academic career at Marist College studying biomedical sciences.

**Adam:** I'm most looking forward to continuing to grow the skills that I've learned and developed at Molloy. I want to put them to use to have a positive impact in the real world.

**Lucas:** I am looking forward to having a fresh start in a new city filled with new people who are just as intelligent and ambitious as me!

**Beatrice:** I'm most looking forward to the college experience, connecting with my peers, and making new memories.

**Chris:** Being able to make the best out of a different school community.

### Advice to underclassmen?

**Chiara:** Keep pushing forward, even on the most difficult days, and keep your head held high because everything will work out in God's timing.

**Adam:** Don't be afraid to try it. While "It" won't always be for you, getting out of your comfort zone allows you to grow as a person and figure out your passion. You may not realize how something as simple as going on that retreat or talking to that person can change your life forever.

**Lucas:** Don't hold hate in your heart.

**Beatrice:** Take every opportunity that comes your way, even if you are the only one who wants to do it.

**Chris:** Be comfortable being uncomfortable.

# SENIOR SPOTLIGHTS



by Gabriella Savino '24,  
Editor-In-Chief

Whether he was your retreat leader, club president, camp counselor, or classmate, senior **Kumi Afful '24** is one that you've most likely gotten to know one way or another at Molloy. This star Stanner has been a part of just about everything Molloy has to offer, which has led to his long lasting impact on not just the school, but all those around him.

Kumi's involvement throughout his time at Molloy can be described in one word – leadership. His leadership journey began when he was chosen to be a counselor at Freshman Camp in his sophomore year. He grew to become the Afro-Caribbean Club President, a SMILE leader, a Peer Group leader, and a leader on several underclassman retreats. Kumi was also voted by the senior class to be a leader of the Student Advisory Board to represent the wants and needs of the senior class. Outside of Molloy, Kumi has volunteered

at the Mid Hudson Valley Special Camps at Esopus, working on the maintenance team to ensure a clean, safe, and efficient environment for the campers. With so many experiences, it was hard for Kumi to pick just one favorite memory, but after some thoughtful reflection, he stated that “the ending of both Freshman Camps I've been to show how family spirit really is embedded into Molloy culture,” with an honorable mention for this year's Spirit Week in which he was Spirit Captain.

Alongside his incredible involvement at Molloy, Kumi has also taken a variety of classes. Some standouts for him have been Constitutional Law with Mr. DeSarno, Popular Literature with Mr. Kelly, and Forensics with Mr. Sheldon. These classes foreshadow his future, as he hopes to study either political science or psychology on a pre-law track in college. Though he has yet to decide where to go, it is evident that he will excel at whatever he puts his mind to and leave an impact wherever he goes.

Kumi has impacted so many Stanners with his work at Freshman Camp making incoming students feel welcome, on retreats making Stanners feel seen, or in his clubs by making an impact on those he's leading. His advice to all underclassmen is, “I think that you should have fun, but also notice how fast four years really can go by. These four years are instrumental to your future, so make sure to still get the important stuff done. Make sure that you're exploring new things, because after you graduate from high school you're barely a kid. Don't take it for granted.”

by Francesca DeSantis '25

Student athletes are a major part of the Stanner community. The work and dedication it takes to balance both academics and athletics can be a challenging part of being a Stanner. **Samantha Kelly '24** is one of Molloy's outstanding scholar-athletes. She excels in the classroom, on the basketball court, and on the lacrosse field. Samantha is an excellent student, taking multiple AP and honors courses throughout her time at Molloy. She is a driven and light-hearted person who has a successful future ahead of her.

Samantha has been playing basketball since she was five years old. She began at Our Lady of Hope Catholic Academy in Middle Village and has loved the game since. She played at different levels on her AAU teams for many years and knew she wanted to continue her basketball journey at Molloy. In Samantha's sophomore year she was the captain of the JV girls basketball team and one of the starting five players of the season. Her leadership qualities were immediately noticed. She was the top rebounder of the 2021-22 season and led the girls to victory in the CHSAA girls basketball championship in March of 2022. “Winning a championship during my high school years was really something to experience. It really showed how our hard work finally paid off. Being able to achieve it with my best friends was also amazing.” She went on to serve as captain of the 2023-24 season.

Samantha joined varsity lacrosse in the spring of her freshman year. She began as an attack position and began playing midfield her junior year. “I enjoy playing

the whole field, I love scoring and assisting my teammates to score as well. I also like playing defense too, as you get the best of both worlds.” She was captain along with Abby Long '24 during senior year and she was one of the top scorers on the team.

Samantha's work ethic extends far beyond the court and the field. She is a part of the National Honor Society, has volunteered at Molloy's annual Open House, and has volunteered at the Marist Brothers' Center at Esopus for Kids 1 Special Camp.

Samantha is a great leader and devotes her time to what she enjoys most. In the classroom she is interested in Constitutional Law with Mr. Desarno. Her senior year she has enjoyed AP Biology with Mr. Stolze. She is an amazing example of what it means to be a Stanner. She is a positive influence to her friends and teammates thanks to her outstanding qualities as a student and an athlete.

Samantha will be attending Villanova University and will major in nursing. Her four years as a Stanner have shown that when she graduates this spring, there will have a bright future ahead of her. Samantha's final piece of advice for underclassmen is, “High school goes by in the blink of an eye, don't waste any opportunities, do something fun, and try something new.”



by Anna Lampman '24

**Jose Pouso '24** is an exemplary Stanner who has truly made the most of his four years at Molloy! He is a dedicated student-athlete and a true leader both in and out of the classroom.

Jose has been a starting singles player for Molloy's Varsity Tennis team since his freshman year – but Molloy isn't the only place you'll find Jose on the tennis court! Along with Timotej Stofa '24, Jose started “Cracked Courts” to teach children in Astoria to play tennis for free. Tennis played a major role in their childhoods, and Jose says that they “wanted to spread that joy [they] had for tennis” with those who couldn't afford lessons.

In addition to playing tennis, Jose works in construction with his father, is a member of the National Honor Society, and takes many rigorous courses at Molloy. He is currently taking classes like AP Physics, AP English Language & Composition, AP European History, and Scholars Calculus 2. Of the classes Jose is enrolled in this year, his favorite has been Mr. Quinn's AP Euro Class.

In the fall, Jose will be attending Northwestern University, where he plans to study Economics and Environmental Engineering. When asked about the best part of his Molloy experience, Jose described, “starting over and meeting new people,” which he looks forward to doing again in Chicago this fall. While at Northwestern, Jose hopes to continue playing tennis, join the Hispanic Club, play intramural sports, work internships, and try Deep Dish Pizza!

Jose has made a great impact on the Molloy community, and he will undoubtedly do the same wherever the future takes him!



by Jules Nohar '25

As the 2023-24 school year comes to a close at Stanner High, one of our outstanding seniors is put into the spotlight: **Aiden De Jesus '24**. Aiden is a kind individual that will go on to accomplish amazing things.

Aiden's favorite class this year was Digital Illustration & Design with Mr. Duplessis. “I was able to draw and let my imagination run wild while working on different art projects and different themes,” he says, “I love to draw so, of course, this was my favorite.” His favorite senior activity was playing in the Seniors vs. Faculty Basketball Game. “I was lucky enough to be selected to play on the Senior Team and dance as a Sassy Senior,” he says.

Aiden expresses his favorite memories during his senior year at Molloy, sharing that one of his favorite memories was the Senior Encounter at Esopus. He says, “I can't really spoil the activities we did during the weekend, but it was an amazing experience that I believe every Molloy student should have, trust me. Everything came together for me and I felt very loved.”

As a sentiment for new students at Molloy, Aiden shares some advice. “It's better to try than to take no action. Please try new things, coming into high school is the best time to do so,” adding, “And please visit Esopus, trust me, you will love it.” His final piece of advice is, “You don't live once, you live every day. So make the most out of every day!”

In the fall, Aiden will be attending St. John's University, majoring in Business and minoring in Social Justice. We wish the best of luck and support to Aiden as he heads toward the next chapter of his life. Go Red Storm!





by Francesca DeSantis '25

**Mairead Harkins '24** is a genuine, outgoing, dedicated, and kind person who knows how to put a smile on anyone's face. She is a leader, and has a positive outlook on everything. Mairead has been a successful student throughout her four years at Molloy. Mairead grew up in Rockaway Beach, NY and went to middle school at St. Rose of Lima. Mairead knew Molloy was the place she wanted to be for her high school career.

She says, "I remember visiting Molloy for the first time in 8th grade, and I immediately fell in love with it and I knew this is where I wanted to go." When Mairead entered Molloy, it didn't start like a normal school year due to COVID-19. It began as a hybrid school year with some days being online, and some days being in person. This was hard because her freshman year she wasn't able to interact with a lot of students and do after school activities.

Her sophomore year was the first full year of being in school with the rest of her class. Since then, Mairead has dedicated her time in so many different areas at school. Mairead began swimming and playing lacrosse her sophomore year. Her senior year, she was one of the captains for Girls Varsity Swimming. Under her leadership, the 2023-24 season ended with a City Championship. Along with these

accomplishments Mairead became a retreat leader and spent many weekends at Esopus leading and guiding underclassmen during both reflective and fun activities with their classmates. Along with leading retreats, Mairead also spends a lot of her summer at the Marist Brothers' Center at Esopus. "When I got accepted into Molloy, I got accepted into Freshman Camp, which sadly didn't end up happening due to COVID-19. The summer before sophomore year I got my chance to go, and I loved Esopus and went back every summer since." Mairead has spent weeks at a time in Esopus volunteering and lifeguarding at Adult Vacation Camp, Young Adult, Freshman Camp, Kids 1, Kids 2, and Deaf Camp. Mairead has gotten the opportunity to cherish so many special moments with her campers. "The environment and amazing people don't compare to anything else. Volunteering and spending my summer with these amazing individuals helped to solidify my decision to go into a field where I'd be helping people in a similar situation to my campers daily." Mairead is very excited to make the memories this upcoming summer and can't wait to begin her future.

Throughout her journey at Molloy, Mairead has truly enjoyed her high school years. Her two favorite classes have been Constitutional Law with Mr. DeSarno, and AP Psychology with Mr. Flemen. Mairead is going to attend The University of Scranton in Pennsylvania this fall. She plans on taking part in the five year Occupational Therapy program. She is excited for all the success and growth that await her in college. Congratulations Mairead, and Roll Royals!

by DJ O'Keeffe '26

As the school year winds down and graduation looms on the horizon, it's time to shine a spotlight on one of Archbishop Molloy High School's outstanding students. **Michelle Ramirez '24** is a high-achieving senior who has left an indelible mark on the school community through her academic excellence, dedication to extracurricular activities, and passion for serving others.

Academically, Michelle is no stranger to challenging coursework. She's currently enrolled in a rigorous schedule that includes AP Statistics, Business and Finance, AP Language, AP Government, and chorus. When asked about her favorite class, she enthusiastically praises AP Language. She says, "Mr. Sheehan is the definition of not for school but for life, and the lessons he has taught will stick with me forever."

While academics are undoubtedly important, Michelle also finds joy and fulfillment in her extracurricular pursuits. Theatre holds a special place in her heart, with Michelle having dedicated four years to the stage and participating in every show possible. She enjoys not just the production itself, but the community centered around this activity. Beyond the spotlight, she's also a dedicated SMILE leader, member of I AM Green, and active participant in clubs like GERLL, Spanish Club, and is a recurring Retreat Leader. Michelle's commitment to service extends beyond the school walls as she volunteers at a middle school in Maspeth's after-school program, lending a helping hand with homework and leading activities. In her downtime, Michelle enjoys diving into a good book and strumming away on her guitar, a hobby she's been cultivating for a few months.

Her passion for learning and growth extends into her future aspirations, as she

looks forward to pursuing a Psychology/ Early Education major at Marist College. She chose this college because "it has the most welcoming environment and same kind of feel I felt when I first visited Molloy." With dreams of teaching and obtaining a master's in Speech Pathology to work with children with disabilities, Michelle is poised to make a positive impact in the lives of others.

Michelle is also the recipient of numerous awards, including membership in the National Honor Society and prestigious accolades such as the Stanner Player Award and the Chorus Award, which she'll proudly receive at graduation alongside her best friend, Charlize Collado.

Reflecting on her time at Molloy, Michelle recalls countless cherished memories, from spirited Seniors vs. Faculty games to enchanting Disney trips. However, it's the transformative experience of the Encounter she went on in February that stands out as her all-time favorite memory, a testament to the profound impact of community and camaraderie at Molloy.

As Michelle prepares to embark on the next chapter of her journey at Marist College, her unwavering dedication, compassionate spirit, and zest for life serve as an inspiration to all who know her. Molloy is proud to call Michelle one of its own, and we eagerly await the incredible accomplishments she'll achieve in the years to come.



by Ryan Ladd '25, Associate Editor

**Aidan Ladd '24** is known for his exceptional kindness, constantly being regarded as the "nicest kid ever;" he was even voted "friendliest" of the senior class by his peers. Aidan's positive attitude and accepting personality have permeated every aspect of his life at Molloy, including all of his classes and extracurriculars. Molloy has been Aidan's home for the last four years, but he is more excited than ever to move on and start on the path to his future.

While at Molloy, Aidan has dedicated much of his time to clubs and teams that he is passionate about. He joined the handball team in his sophomore year, quickly finding a family in his teammates and his coach, Mr. Leonardo. His commitment to the team led him to become the team captain in his senior year, a position that he holds proudly. He also became a regular member of the Spanish Club as a sophomore, where he grew to enjoy embracing his culture and using it to connect with others. Aidan was elected the Vice President of the Spanish Club as a senior, which allowed him to become much more involved in club activities and initiatives to share Hispanic culture at Molloy. As a member of the Intramurals Committee, Aidan has been able to use his love of all things sports-related to organize and referee the tournaments and games that are loved by many Stanners.

Of all of Aidan's activities, the one that stands out above all the others is his role as a Retreat Leader at Esopus. He has led two retreats – a freshman retreat in 2022 and a sophomore retreat in 2024 – and was a Freshman Camp counselor two summers in a row. He reminisces fondly about his first time attending Freshman Camp, calling it his favorite memory as a Stanner. He reflects, "I was able to form long-term and lasting relationships with people I had never spoken to in a week,

which I did not think was possible. It taught me the importance of meaningful interaction, and it was one of the greatest experiences of my life." He encourages Stanners to take every opportunity they can to attend and lead retreats at Esopus.

In his academic career, Aidan views English 10 Honors and Literature into Film with Mr. Kelly as his favorite classes he has taken. "These classes helped me develop better writing skills and allowed me to analyze literature in a different way than I ever had before," he says. Aidan is exceedingly thankful for Mr. Kelly, Mr. O'Reilly, Mr. Kilkelly, Ms. Rayappa, and Ms. Pitts, stating that he is grateful for their commitment to making Molloy a welcoming environment for him. He comments, "They have all had a huge role in helping me open up and develop into who I am today."

Aidan's future plans will take him to the "Sunshine State," as he will be attending the University of Miami on an academic scholarship. He plans to major in Sports Administration, with the hopes of turning his passion for sports into a career. After earning his degree in sports management, Aidan wants to work in the sports industry, specifically the NBA, as an agent or the general manager of a team. He looks forward to being someone in the industry that people can approach, acting as an "advocate for interconnectedness" among people of different backgrounds.

While it is rather bittersweet that Aidan will no longer be at Molloy, he is enthusiastic for the journey he is about to embark on. He remarks, "I am excited to start a new chapter of my life in a totally new environment so far away from home. I am sad to leave the family I have established at Molloy, but I will make sure to take what I learned here and apply it to my life at Miami." He wants to leave the rising seniors and underclassmen with a significant piece of advice: "Don't be afraid to put yourself out there. It can lead to experiences and opportunities that are more fulfilling than you can imagine."

During the four years Aidan has spent at Molloy, he has perfectly embodied the Marist Pillar of presence with his care, attentiveness, and value of having real connections with the people he encounters. His determination, kind spirit, and congenial demeanor will surely take him far. Congratulations, Aidan!

# SENIOR SPOTLIGHTS CONTINUED



by Helen Gonzalez '27

**Lucas Tsang '24** has made a significant impact during his time at Molloy. He excels in his academics and also has a passion for running Track and Field. When asked how he began his running journey, Lucas said, "I have been running for Molloy since I was a sophomore, but I took up running during quarantine when my mom needed a running buddy." This experience strengthened their bond and also instilled in Lucas a love for running.

As the National Honor Society President and a track star, Lucas balances academics and athletics, embodying the true spirit of a scholar-athlete. Lucas's favorite classes at Molloy include AP World History with Mr. DeSarno, Algebra 2/Pre-Calculus with Mrs. Pizzo, and English 10

Honors with Mr. Kelly, though he also loves Scholars Literature of the Immigrant Experience with Ms. Edward. Lucas is committed to his academics and takes as many AP and Honors courses he can at Molloy. His ability to excel academically while participating in sports showcases his discipline and time management skills. Lucas's passion for school and sports inspires others to strive for greatness.

Lucas leads his community by being a part of the Intramural Club and as a proud Junior Retreat Leader. One of Lucas's favorite memories at Molloy was Freshmen Camp 2023 as the counselor for Group 12. As a counselor, Lucas was exceptional in guiding and supporting the incoming freshman class. His leadership, empathy, and positive influence has made a lasting impact for Group 12.

Lucas will be attending Boston University in the fall, and he plans on studying Business, "hoping to become my own boss one day!" A piece of advice Lucas gives to underclassmen is, "If you look long enough and hard enough, you can find something to dislike about anyone. However, the opposite is also true, and it takes less energy." He has made the best of his four years as a Stanner, and we can't wait to see the amazing things he'll do in the future.

## Faculty & Staff Say Goodbye To Class of 2024

Hey, Class of 2024! I am so proud of you for how much you've grown over the past four years. Thank you for all of your hard work and compassion, which act as a constant inspiration to me. I'm so excited to see all the wonderful things you will accomplish in your future. Always remember that you have a home in Molloy and family in me. I wish you the best of luck and congratulations!!! — **Ms. Haslbauer**

Congratulations, Class of 2024, on all that you have accomplished! For those of you who have a good idea of what you want to accomplish over the next four years I say, "Onward and upward! Pursue your passion, provide value for this world, and embrace the road ahead!" For those of you who may not be as sure regarding what you want to accomplish in the next four years I simply say, "When you don't know where you are going, any road can take you there! Lean into it, try new things, and embrace the road ahead!" You don't have to have the rest of your life figured out by the age of 18. Some of the most interesting people I know didn't know at 18 what they wanted to do with their lives. Some of the most interesting 40-year-olds I know still don't! So, I will leave you with this...Napoleon Hill once said, "What the human mind can conceive and believe, it can achieve." So go out there and conceive! Go out there and believe! And I cannot wait to see what each and every one of you achieves! — **Mr. Matthew J. Corrado, Campus Minister**

Congratulations to the Class of 2024! Your impact on these halls, in Esopus, and on this "pale blue dot" has truly made a difference. Remember when you get overwhelmed (because we all do) – take a breath, take a step back, and find what/who will lift you up. Let go, let God, and let your light shine. Never forget how loved you are and that Santa Claus lives in the South Pole. #fiziks — **Mr. Autera**

What a creative, outgoing, friendly group of young adults you are! I thoroughly enjoyed my classes, the Step Team, the clubs, the retreats/Senior Encounters, and the not-so-quiet study halls that we shared together! My advice to you all is to "Breathe," to "Thank God" you're alive every day, and to live each day with "Love in your Heart" for all! Best of luck to you as you continue on your journey of life! Namaste! Peace, Love, & Prosperity — **Ms. DeNoto**

To the graduating seniors, as you embark on this new chapter of your lives, remember to always love yourselves fiercely, speak truth to power courageously, and walk in your authentic selves confidently. Your unique voices and experiences are invaluable – embrace them, share them, and let them guide you towards a future filled with purpose and fulfillment. Remember that prayer is powerful! Congratulations, and may your journey ahead be as extraordinary as you are. — **Dr. Alice Prince**

The Class of 2024 will always hold a special place in my heart, as I started at Molloy at the same time as you all did four years ago. It has been an immense joy to see you grow and to grow alongside you, as well. In the years to come, lean on those around you and lean on your faith; we all bring each other through this life. Always remember the love you felt here, and remember to be that same love for those out there who need it most. When in doubt, read a good book. — All my love, **Mr. O'Reilly**

It has been a privilege to work with many of you throughout the past four years. When I think of your class, warmth, wit, and social awareness comes to mind. The world has changed substantially since the first day of your freshman year, and I pray you find comfort and hope while reflecting on how much you have grown. You are well-equipped for this next chapter. Thank you for your presence. I wish you all the best. Congratulations on your graduation! — Sincerely, **Mrs. Callagy**

Prayers and Best Wishes on your Graduation. I thank you for your Good Will and Spirit. Your journey from a Hybrid Class to Graduation is a Blessing. Enjoy College! Thanks to my Peer Leaders who were dedicated mentors and guides. — **Brother Eugene Birmingham**

Congratulations to the Class of 2024! It has been great getting to know so many of you during my first two years at Molloy. Through your visits to the college counseling office, awesome participation in Spirit Week, and the fun walk to the WTC during Stanner-A-Thon, I have watched you work hard and have fun. Keep this balance as you continue onto college and beyond. Best wishes! — **Mrs. Bisceglia**

When does this period end? What time is it now? It's time to leave; please don't annoy the villagers as you leave. Remember what happens to monsters who annoy them. It's been a privilege to teach you all! — **Mr. Chowske**

Hey, Class of 2024! It's the end of this chapter and the beginning of another – wishing you a peaceful transition! Always work hard and be kind. I hope you always cherish the intangibles in your lives – moments and people! Remember, I believe in you more than you know! Thank you for the laughter :) — **Ms. Edward**

Class of 2024, Please do me ONE favor... When you're in one of your College classes, and the professor is asking a question, clearly looking for a brilliant answer... PLEASE when you raise your hand, and you are the one the professor is picking to reply to his or her carefully designed question... PLEASE don't let you reply be..... "Can I go to the bathroom?" On behalf of ALL teachers and professors in the world.... THANK YOU! :) — **Mr. Van Winkel**

Dear Class of 2024, you should be extremely proud of what you have accomplished during your time here, both individually and collectively. Best of luck with whatever comes next for you. — **Mr. Esgro**

Dear Class of 2024, congratulations on all you have accomplished and good luck on your exciting journey into the future! You have been a wonderful senior class. Carry the Stanner Legacy with you to college and beyond. GO STANNERS! — **Dr. Penikas**

Dear Class of 2024, Congratulations! You all deserve a round of applause for persevering through some difficult times, especially in the beginning of your career at Molloy as you navigated through the Covid/hybrid days. The other day, I was reflecting on the number of outstanding students I've connected with through the initial Admissions process, through clubs like Blue & White Yearbook and Photography Club, and those I met through the Senior Disney trip. So many of you are full of charm, wit, intelligence, and most of all, character. Although all grades are wonderful in their own way, your class truly stands out and you will be missed! Thank you for all the memories and best of luck in college and beyond. Also, go Team Remy! — **Mr. DiDonato '01**

### The Stanner - Volume LXVII - Issue No. 4

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# Personal Reflection: How Molloy Turned Out To Be Better Than I Thought It Would Be

by Marissa Roca '24

In the grand scheme of things, Archbishop Molloy High School is one city block in a giant world. But once you get to experience it as I did, it becomes so much more. Walking in as a freshman, I never thought I'd be lucky enough to share so many amazing things about high school. After all, it's something every kid dreads, leaving the familiar and embracing the beginnings of maturity. But as I've walked through halls hundreds of times, seen familiar and new faces brighten up the halls, and gotten my 14th chipotle chicken wrap of the month from the cafeteria, this city block that doesn't seem so extravagant at first glance has become a home for me.

I know people often overlook this fact, but I really have learned a lot at Molloy. I've learned lots of ideas about my world, like the physics of a softball hit in the air from Mr. Autera, how to sing the quadratic formula from Ms. Keyes, and the immigration process from Ms. Edward. I've also learned many skills in my classes that are applicable to my own life journey, like resume building in Mr. Beaudet's class, or how to "Do the Right Thing" from Mr. Kelly, or reserving my judgements from Mr. Sheehan. Furthermore, these classes and teachers have taught me study skills, the ability to ask for help when I need it, and the idea of quality over quantity. Molloy is shined on for its academic excellence, and now I can see why.

But the aspect of this place that makes it shine is truly the people. The people that make a club meeting

turn into a safe space full of love. The people that make running around on a dirt field feel like a family. The people who make a giant mansion in upstate New York feel like a tight knit town full of peace. Over the past four years, I have probably signed up for at least 20 clubs, but a few ended up sticking around. I have played softball for four years with a group of talented, dedicated girls who no doubt will go far in the future. I was a Stanner Player and got to pretend to be someone else, but in the process also met some of the realest people I know. Through Campus Ministry, I got to experience Esopus Magic and gain a love for community service that I intend to pursue in the future. Sure, that puts me in a stereotype in a way, but I'll gladly live with that stereotype as long as it follows me. I even started a club, and although not everything went to plan, the leadership skills I gained gave me so much to remember and cherish. And obviously, I have been writing for your Stanner Newspaper, which gave me perspective about how diverse and amazing our school really is. What amazes me is that these people brought me friends in and out of the halls, who have shown me love and support no matter how many pop culture moments I loudly reference at 7:30 in the morning.

Of course, everyone has a different experience of this place. Some prefer to go home at 2:10pm, while others sometimes stay past 9:00pm. Some enjoy an activity where you can move around constantly, while others would rather move people with their words.



But one thing is for sure: people can find what they love at Molloy. I've found and lost some of my best friends here, but what remained a constant is that there was always someone willing to help me find my way. The lessons I've learned here have absolutely prepared me for my college years to come at the University of Connecticut and then some (roll huskies!). The days sometimes are draining and lousy, but the good ones make it so worth it. I now know that a part of me will always truly be a Stanner. I guess the whole "Not for School, but for Life" was pretty accurate, even if it sounds straight out of High School Musical. So, as I leave this one city block in our big world, I know that I'm prepared for college and beyond, as well as fulfilled in my adolescent experience.

## Seniors Trounce Faculty 81-58 In Memorable Game

by Joshua Roca '27



The Seniors vs Faculty Basketball Game took place on March 22nd in the Jack Curran Gym and it was one of the best events of the year! The bleachers were packed for the game and memorable performances by the Step Team, Dance Team, and Sassy Seniors, and a new Spirit Squad!

The Senior / Faculty game is a running tradition in Stanner history and is always the place to be when it comes around. It takes a lot of work and dedication to set up, and always lives up to the hype. Since this is such a big event, many seniors want to play. This means they have to try out, and only a select number make the team. On the faculty side, about 15 teachers are selected. The Dance Team, Step Team, and Sassy Seniors teams each get performances during the half and quarter breaks of the game. One member of both the Sassy Seniors and senior basketball team, Chris Dalton '24, spoke on being a part of the experience. "I'm glad everyone in the crowd enjoyed the sassy senior performance and seeing everyone's reactions made the dedication during practices worth it." In reference to the game, Chris stated that "playing in front of the big crowd was



awesome because there was so much positive energy in the building. It was very funny playing against some of my teachers."

The performances had the entire gym celebrating and the energy in the building was electric. The Step Team performed first and it was a great way to get the crowd going and energized. The Step Team has performed at many basketball games before this, and this was their "Senior Day" celebration, making their performance all the more memorable.

The half-time show of the event was a big musical performance with the Sassy Seniors from the Class of 2024, who gave us one of the best and biggest shows they've ever done. It was comedic, entertaining, and fun to experience. Also, many seniors as previously mentioned played in the game and performed the same night, which is a very impressive feat. The show provided lots of dancing and music from the Class of 2024 which was a great way to spend the halftime.

The Dance Team also put on an electric performance which also doubled as their Senior Day. They put on an amazing show, and just like the Step Team, they have

done performances in previous athletic competitions in the past. Nearing the end of the game, when the energy in the building was starting to level, they helped bring it back up by giving a show to the Stanners and fans in the crowd.

Students from every class showed up to watch and everybody had a great time. In the end, a well balanced effort from the seniors led them to the win with an impressive final score of 81-58, though the faculty put up a great fight. Math teacher Ms. Scalice spoke on the loss saying, "This year was my 9th year (would have been 11th if it weren't for COVID-19) competing in the Seniors vs. Faculty game. It's my favorite event at the school, whether we win or lose. I just love seeing the excitement of the students and teachers. Even the trash talking leading up to the game makes it fun." By the end of the night everyone was ready to head home after a good time watching performances, enjoying the game and having some good snacks.

Overall the Seniors vs Faculty Basketball Game was one of the best events of the year. Thank you to everyone who made it happen!

# STANNER SPORTS

Molloy celebrated National Signing Day on April 16, 2024! Nearly 20 seniors signed a national letter of intent to continue playing their sport at their college or university, with family and friends in attendance to cheer them on! Each student athlete's hard work and dedication was recognized as they took photos with their families and coaches. Congratulations to our outstanding college-bound athletes!

\*Not pictured: Oliwia Grabowski (SUNY New Paltz, Tennis) and Maria Weigand (SUNY New Paltz, Volleyball)



**John Paul Maaba**  
St. Joseph's University | Basketball



**Jovanna Donaruma**  
Adelphi University | Softball



**Ava Hershkovitz**  
Adelphi University | Softball



**Gianna Corcoran Spinelli**  
Fordham University | Softball



**Mary Lou Piazza**  
Iona University | Softball



**Alexa Piotrowski**  
Adelphi University | Soccer



**Cait Dorry**  
The Catholic Univ. of America | Soccer



**Caitlin Mullen**  
SUNY New Paltz | Basketball



**Kaitlyn Nestor**  
SUNY Cortland | Basketball



**Sophia Hoyt**  
Mercy University | Basketball



**Eva Gonzalez**  
Adelphi University | Track & Field



**Chris Dalton**  
SUNY Cortland | Track & Field



**Sean Stoney**  
Lincoln University  
Baseball



**Keylon Canela**  
Univ. Of Mount Saint Vincent  
Baseball



**Sebastian Sanchez**  
John Jay College of Criminal Justice  
Baseball



**Julian Diaz**  
SUNY Purchase  
Baseball