

# THE STANNER

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## Molloy Full of Energy During Epic “Spirit Week”

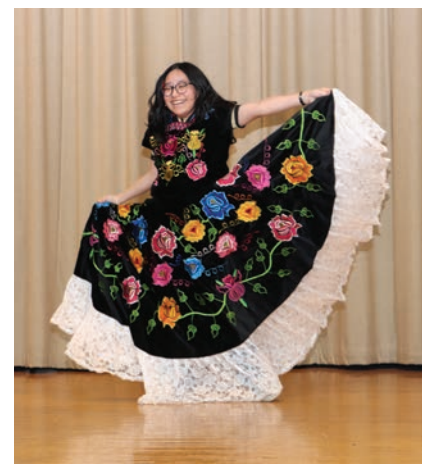
by Aiden Ramusevic '27

Spirit Week is an annual event that allows Stanners to showcase their school spirit! From dress downs, to activities, to challenging contests, Spirit Week has it all. Every day during Spirit Week, students were given a theme as to what they should wear for dress down day to earn points and ultimately be deemed the grade with the most spirit!

On Monday, students wore pajamas to officially start Spirit Week. It was a very comfy, cozy day, and a good way for students to express their creativity through fun pajamas! On Tuesday, Molloy had “Anything Goes Day.” This was a day where students and faculty could dress up as anything they wanted to. It could have been a fictional character, a famous artist or celebrity, or simply just dressed casually. Some notable appearances were Santa Claus, a group of Minions, characters from *Up*, and Curious George! The day was a great way for students to express themselves and their personalities. On Wednesday, Molloy assigned each grade a specific color to wear. The freshmen were assigned green, the sophomores pink, the juniors red, and the seniors blue. In addition to this, Wednesday was also Anything But A Backpack Day. Students were allowed to bring anything that they could think of to replace their backpacks. From a rice cooker, to baskets, to even suitcases, Stanners were sure able to show their awesome creativity.

On Thursday, Molloy hosted Cultural Day. This was a day where all students were able to represent their heritages by coming to school with flags, face paint, traditional outfits, and more. After school, Molloy held a Festival of Cultures. This was a wonderful event where all the cultural clubs served all types of foods and drinks, offered games, and gave out prizes. It was an event that lasted for around an hour and a half, and during that time there were many types of performances done by members of various cultural clubs. Some clubs, like the Italian Club, sang songs, while others, like the Greek Club, performed a cultural dance. Many Stanners from various cultures and heritages even participated in a fashion show!

Finally, the last day of Spirit Week was the Stanner-a-Thon. It was an event where freshmen, sophomores, and juniors walked a path together through Briarwood, while seniors participated in other activities. These activities included a basketball shootout in the park, Family Feud, Zumba, the Br. Leo Memorial Walk, and many more. It was a good way to get exercise and hang out with friends, and raise money for Molloy school projects. Thank you to Ms. Murdocca and everyone who helped put together an amazing week!



## Mamma Mia! Stanner Players Present Memorable Musical

by Allison Chmil '27 | Photos by Krystal Valentin '25



From Thursday, April 18th to Sunday, April 21st, the Stanner Players put on their 2024 spring musical *Mamma Mia!* in Molloy’s Ralph DeChiaro Theater! All four performances were sold out within a matter of days, making for one of the most successful musicals in recent memory. *Mamma Mia!* takes place in Greece and tells the story of Sophie Sheridan, played by Sofia Crino '26, getting married to her fiancé Sky, played by Juliana (DJ) O’Keeffe '26. While Sophie’s mother Donna, played by Jada Alyanna Chico '24, is prepping for Sophie’s wedding, Sophie has a plan and secretly invites three of her possible fathers to her wedding. The musical is centered around not knowing who Sophie’s real father is, and who is going to walk her down the aisle when she gets married.

According to Director Ms. Winters '06, “Directing shows is always a rewarding experience. There are many things to juggle; but getting to work with the Stanner Players from day one when we have nothing to the last performance is amazing in watching how much work goes into a production, onstage and behind the scenes! It’s been wonderful to watch the show come together. The cast rehearses for months, but the stage crew just comes in right before the show, so adding things like lights, costumes, and microphones really makes it all come to life. I love when the audience finally comes in and gets to experience for the first time what we have done many times; I also love how because it’s live theater, you’re never going to get the exact same show twice!” Through all of the dedication Ms. Winters and the Stanner Players put into each show, their performances are always spectacular.

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# Continued: Stanner Players Present *Mamma Mia!*

by Allison Chmil '27 | Photos by Krystal Valentin '25

Elizabeth Egas '27, a member of the stage crew who works on lighting, says, "Theater is a very good environment to work in. The Stanner Players are always willing to lend a hand and never miss an opportunity for improvement." Elizabeth's favorite parts of the show were the singing and dancing, as she says it "emphasizes the production." Enda Connolly '27, part of the ensemble, says, "My fellow cast members are so amazing, and the final product was a real treat," and his favorite parts of the show were everyone's talents, dedication, skill, and passion for theater and acting. Sofia Crino, playing the main role of Sophie, says, "My favorite part about being a Stanner Player is getting to work with such an amazing and talented group of individuals. The Stanner Players are like a family and I'm so grateful for the support that everyone, both in cast and crew, has given me. Special thanks to Ms. Winters for always believing in me and trusting me to take on the lead role! I was so honored to have been chosen to play the part of Sophie and I'm going to



cherish the memories that I've created through this show forever! I will always be "thankful for the music!"

During the Saturday night performance, a technical issue in the second act caused the lights to go out and music to cut, and so the Stanner Players had to adapt and perform a capella for a few songs! Staff member

Ms. Wagner '14, who attended the performance, says, "Despite the circumstances, the Players were unfazed and put on a fabulous show! It's really a credit to Ms. Winters' hard work in preparing the students and the Players' hard work in continuing the show." Congratulations to the Stanner Players and Ms. Winters!

# Molloy Hosts Grand Celebration of Culture

by James Vanegas-Molina '27

Molloy's recent "Festival of Cultures" was a great success, thanks to the enthusiastic participation of the school's various cultural clubs. On Thursday, April 25th, the Jack Curran Gym was transformed into a huge display of culture, with each club showcasing the richness of their heritage through food, games, and performances. Though it only started around 2:30pm after school, and ended around 3:30pm, the fair was full of energy and enjoyment thanks to the huge showing of Stanner cultures. The clubs provided snacks, games, jewelry, and other displays of culture at the fair, as well as fun performances. The festival even offered the first ever Cultural Fashion Show at Molloy. The Fashion Show presented many different cultural outfits worn by Stanners, and provided representation for a multitude of Stanner cultures.

The festival was a highlight of Spirit Week for many people, especially current freshman Sandra Goncalves '27, who said she "loved being able to try foods from

different countries," and that she was "glad to have learned about cultures around the world." Freshman Michaela Knapik '27 said she enjoyed all of the different cultural displays, such as "the French Club's crepe table, the Asian Club's food, and the Indian Club's henna table." Michaela enjoyed all of the different performances as well, particularly the fashion show. She says she "can't wait to attend next year," and possibly be a part of it. Mia Bruno '25, a current junior, said she "loved celebrating different backgrounds, experiencing customs through song and dance, and trying new foods." Sophomore Isabella Fortunato '26, who performed with the Italian Club, said she "really enjoyed seeing a representation of all the different cultures present at Molloy," and that she "learned so much about the backgrounds of [her] classmates."

The event did not only celebrate the unique heritages of our student body, but also fostered a sense of inclusion among all in the Molloy community.



# Students Compete for Spirit Week Points in Lip Sync Battle

by Deborah Murphy '26



During Spirit Week at Molloy, there are many different fun activities for students to engage in. One of those activities is the Lip Sync Battle, a competition where students from different grades get to compete against each other by lip-syncing to a song or songs of their choice. By participating, students get points for their grades, competing with their fellow Stanners to be considered the grade with the most school spirit!

This year the Lip Sync Battle took place in the Jack Curran Gym on April 23rd. There were a lot of fun and entertaining performances, including soloists and large groups. The battle started with a few of the Stanner Players dancing and lip-syncing along to “Dancing Queen” by ABBA. It was fun to see some of the choreography from the spring musical *Mamma Mia!* in their performance. Following that were seniors Kumi Afful '24, Joseph Castaño-Medina '24, Lauren Solorzano '24, and Lauren Zamora '24. The performance started with two Joe and Kumi lip-syncing to the song “Somebody To Love” by Justin Bieber featuring Usher. Then the song “Boy’s a Liar, Pt. 2” by PinkPantheress

& Ice Spice came on, followed by even more seniors joining in to close the performance. This entertaining act was definitely a fan favorite. Afterwards freshman Haile Johnson '27 danced to “Girl Anachronism” by The Dresden Dolls. Haile was the only person representing the freshman class, and she demonstrated a lot of courage and confidence! Next up was a senior group doing their take on “I’m Just Ken” by Ryan Gosling, from the Barbie movie. This performance was very entertaining and humorous, leaving the audience filled with laughter.

Then, Sophomore Katherine Sit '26 performed a melody of songs by Taylor Swift. The melody included “I Did Something Bad,” “...Ready For It?,” “Don’t Blame Me,” and “Look What You Made Me Do.” The crowd was very engaged and sang along to the songs. Next was Senior Colin Montgomery '24 dancing to a variety of songs by Nicki Minaj accompanied by a senior who did acrobatic moves like cartwheels, backflips, and more. The audience was very impressed and they cheered loudly during the flips. After that,

a group of Juniors and special guests Mr. Autera '16 and Mr. O'Reilly '14 danced to the Tom Holland mix of “Umbrella” by Rihanna. The crowd was very enthusiastic and entertained by seeing some of their favorite teachers on the stage! This fun event ended with seniors Ryan Chavez '24 and Elliott Romero '24 lip-syncing to the songs “Silk Sonic Intro” by Bruno Mars, Anderson .Paak, and Silk Sonic.

After the Lip Sync Battle one of the performers, sophomore Katherine Sit, got to speak about how this event impacted her. She said, “This was such a fun and exciting experience. I am glad I got to show others that they can do what they want to do and express themselves.” The show ended with three winners. In third place were the juniors and special guests Mr. Autera and Mr. O'Reilly. In second place was sophomore Katherine Sit. Last but not least, in first place were seniors Kumi Afful, Joseph Castaño-Medina, Lauren Solorzano, and Lauren Zamora.

Overall, the Lip Sync Battle proved to be a great addition to the already exciting Spirit Week!

## Spirit Week Changeup: For Better or Worse?

by Nicholas Seibert '25

Just a couple of weeks ago, Stanners celebrated our annual tradition of “Spirit Week.” During this week full of activities and themed dress-downs, students noticed one big change from previous years. During this year’s Spirit Week, the Stanner-A-Thon was at the end of the week, rather than being in October as per usual. However, due to this addition, something had to go in order to make room for it. “Teen Trope Day” was removed from this year’s Spirit Week dress down schedule, and there were generally mixed feelings about this change, mostly leaning towards disappointment.

“Teen Trope Day” in the past has often been overlooked compared to other days of the Spirit Week schedule, especially in comparison to some of the days that people go all out on like “Anything Goes Day” and “Cultural Day.” Despite this, there are still many students who were disappointed by this loss. One student who expressed his disappointment was junior Nicholas Tolentino '25. When asked his opinion on the matter, he stated, “The Stanner-a-Thon being during Spirit Week this year is nice, but the removal of ‘Teen Trope Day’ disappoints me; I don’t get to see many of my fellow emos and goths. Many people tell me they

never expected me to be ‘gothic,’ but I’d honestly choose to be that out of the four main tropes.”

Gavriel Rodriguez '25, a fellow junior, expressed similar sentiments, saying, “I think the replacement of “Teen Trope Day” makes Spirit Week incomplete. While I understand the placement of the Stanner-a-Thon may have been a great idea strategically, I feel it kinda takes away an important part of Spirit Week in which students are able to express themselves. Overall I feel that the day should be brought back to extend Spirit Week’s creativity.” Senior Andrew Perez '24 also commented saying, “Personally, I was reminiscing a lot about how that was a really great concept last year, it’s too bad we got rid of it; to be fair it was probably a rough choice considering the other ones are debatably better picks.”

These ideas seem to be what the general opinion on



Stanners dressed like students from other schools on Anything Goes Day.

the change is, and it makes sense. “Teen Trope Day” is a nice opportunity for students to express themselves, but the Stanner-A-Thon is a worthy replacement for it, as at least it helps raise money for the school. Although it would be preferable to have both days, if it has to be one or the other then it makes sense to have the Stanner-A-Thon instead of “Teen Trope Day.” Whether this change is permanent though or just for this year, I’m sure that it will not matter, we get a replacement, which is just as fun and beneficial for the school community, just in a different way.



# Spring Stanner-A-Thon A Big Success

by Elizabeth Canty '26



Archbishop Molloy High School closed out Spirit Week in an exciting and unprecedented way. On Friday, April 26th, Molloy held its annual Stanner-a-Thon, a traditional fundraiser that includes a walk through Briarwood and several other activities for the senior class. Freshmen, sophomores, and juniors walk the neighborhood route while Molloy's track team leads the way running it. Mia Bruno '25 remarked, "I always enjoy the Stanner-a-Thon because it's a nice change of pace and gives me a chance to take a break from the stresses of schoolwork, get some fresh air, and catch up with my friends as we walk." The day was extremely enjoyable, and gave students a chance to bond with their Molloy community as a family.

The seniors celebrated their last Stanner-a-Thon with a bang, participating in many faculty-led activities. These included a Game-a-Thon, hosted by Ms. DeNoto in the library, Family Feud with Ms. Haslbauer, and a Wellness Workshop led by Ms. Vicari in the Dance Studio. Emily Layden '24 participated in the Family Feud, commenting, "It was a lot of fun being paired up with my classmates to answer survey questions. Ms. Haslbauer made it a lot of fun and did a great job playing Steve Harvey." More athletic activities included basketball with Ms. Henning, Zumba hosted by Ms. Murdocca in the Curran Gym, and dodgeball hosted by Mr. Kelly '94 and Mr. Klimas '98. Grace Gilroy '24 participated in dodgeball and had a great time. In her opinion, "It was really exciting to get to do something different than the years past and spend time with my classmates for a fun game of dodgeball."

Most notably though, is the historic Br. Leo Walk, led by Mr. Dougherty '91. The Br. Leo Walk to the World Trade Center has been a tradition for about 20 years. Br. Leo Richard was a beloved member of

the Molloy family, and added greatly to the school. He founded the SMILE Program in 1965, and began Peer Groups in the 1970s. Br. Leo liked long walks, and would often invite faculty and students for long walks through the neighborhood, through Manhattan, and through Long Beach. His long walks gave students an opportunity to talk about life openly and honestly, and became somewhat of "free therapy" sessions. The students were comfortable around their peers and teachers, and so these walks were enjoyable and effective. Unfortunately, Br. Leo passed away in 1995, but his legendary impact on Molloy still remains ever present through the programs he founded.

In the early 2000s, a student suggested continuing the Br. Leo walks. "It seemed like such a giant thing at the time," reflected Mr. Dougherty, "and we didn't know how we were going to pull it off. But then we realized: the Walk-a-Thon! Students would be dressed casually and prepared to walk anyway, so it seemed like the perfect opportunity." And so, in the fall of 2004, the senior class of 2005 became the first to complete the Br. Leo Walk to the World Trade Center as a Stanner-a-Thon activity. Although the route has been slightly altered over the years, the significance of this twelve mile walk hasn't changed.

Seniors enjoyed their experience participating in the Br. Leo Walk this year and overall it was a huge success. This year set a record, with a total of 85 students participating. "It was fun and a very enriching experience. I would definitely recommend it to people who love to exercise and socialize," says Eva Gonzalez '24. "I also did the Brother Leo Walk. I thought the walk was going to be difficult, but I actually ended up having a great time, and since we had a speaker and sang the whole way, I barely felt the many miles we

walked," commented Ana Botero-Gil '24. Students livened their time with speakers blasting music, and the back of the group (aka. "Dance U.S.A") was the life of the party.

In the past, the Stanner-a-Thon funds have gone to many improvements and additions to the school, including the development of the new Art Studio and supplies, renovations of both gyms, air conditioning, and a new Chem Lab. The Stanner-a-Thon funds this year are going towards some big projects that you, the Stanner students, chose in a survey. These include locker room improvements, classroom heating upgrades, and the installation of a student-maintained saltwater fish tank and living environment. Ms. Murdocca, the Director of Student Activities at Molloy, thought that the event itself ran very smoothly, and that she "would like to see more active fundraising from the students. Molloy is such a great school – students should be proud to carry the tradition of personal fundraising to increase the value of Molloy and leave a legacy for the next generation of Stanners." On behalf of the students, we are incredibly excited for these projects and grateful for the support of our peers and their family members.

The beautiful weather and the School Spirit running high after a fun-filled week, made the Stanner-a-Thon a perfect representation of all Molloy has to offer. This year has been unlike any other for the Stanner-a-Thon, though. Instead of a fall fundraiser, this year's walk was completed in April. There were several reasons for this, but mostly the decision had to do with the warmer weather and significantly more time to prepare. Most students agree that this was the right choice, and we look forward to more spring walks in the future.

## Introducing The Marist Green Team!

Op-Ed by Jules Nohar '25

As one of the leaders of the Laudato Si Marist Green Team, I'm proud to report on the extensive progress that we have made in beautifying and transforming the St. Ann's Courtyard Garden (located next to the theater's doors) into a peaceful and spiritual sanctuary for our school. Currently, the plans are to plant vegetables and foods to donate to those who need it, plant flowers for decor, and create and decorate a peace pole in our Marist mission. The space will also be used for day-retreats, and as a spot for students to sit, connect with their faith, and find peace away from their busy schedules throughout the day.

Speaking of giving back to the school community, you can look out for the Director of Campus Ministry Mr. Costa's emails asking if you're interested in signing up. We have created an ongoing service opportunity for our students that will help you gain hands-on environmental experience and service experience where you can get involved in your school community and do something good for those around you. The last step of the process is to create a mural, which will represent what Molloy stands for as a Marist

school that has dedicated itself to evolve with the environment and world around it. It'll represent the dedication that we, as a school community, have to provide for the future generations of students, show our support to the Marist cause, and fulfill our call to care and look after God's creation.

If you're interested in helping with the cleanup and beautification process, contact Mr. Costa! Right now, we are in the cleanup stage – including cleaning out weeds, and mixing the soil. We are currently constructing garden beds in order to start planting soon afterwards. Truly, it's a beautiful thing to connect with nature and be able to give back to the environment and school community to provide for future generations of students. In my experience so far of planning out the process, getting my hands dirty in the garden, and watching my peers enjoy themselves and be included in a bigger purpose, I feel so fulfilled emotionally, physically, and spiritually. I am able to grow my faith and connection to the Marist mission as I live up to the values of St. Marcellin Champagnat. I'm so excited to continue on with the process, and I hope to see some new faces soon!



Campus Ministry volunteers leveled dirt and removed weeds in the St. Ann's Courtyard during Spirit Week.

# Science Symposium Showcases Impressive Research

by Elizabeth Canty '26

On Thursday, May 2nd, Molloy's Science Research Program hosted their annual Science Symposium, a classic way to display the months of research that sophomores, juniors, and seniors enrolled in the class have been conducting.

Science Research is a class unlike any other, in that most of the work is done outside of class, at students' own pace. This gives students the freedom to take their time—or go as far ahead as they want! During the three years of this class, students identify a topic they are interested in, answer questions and educate themselves on general population and scholarly material, develop a mentorship with a real professional in their field of choice, and conduct their very own research.

Ms. Mary Mallia was certified by the University of Albany in 2016 to run the Science Research Program at Molloy, so in the Spring of 2017, she and her students hosted Molloy's first Science Symposium. This affiliation with the University of Albany is another aspect of the course that makes it unique, because students can earn up to twelve college credits during their three years in the program.

Students are also encouraged to enter contests, such as the New York City STEM Fair. Caitlin Trinh '24 was one competitor from Molloy this year. Not only was she named a finalist, but she won first place in her category, Medicine and Health Sciences, along with the "Wonder Woman in Science" special award, which is given to promote the empowerment of women in science. Her project included research on baseline knowledge of women's health. Caitlin is currently working with

her mentor, Dr. Catherine Chan at NYU Langone, to publish her paper in a medical journal. She is truly an inspiration for all Molloy students, especially young women excited to achieve great accomplishments in the field of science. Veronica Nerone '24 received second place in the NYC STEM Fair, with her award winning research on music cognition in children. She is currently working with her mentor, Deidre Smolizza, at NYU Langone. Ms. Mallia, and all of us at Molloy, are incredibly proud of the seniors' monumental achievements this year.

The Sophomore Science Research class took a different approach than the juniors and seniors for their first Science Symposium. These students presented the work of accomplished scientists and real experiments that significantly impacted the field of study they are interested in. From cellular biology to criminology, sophomores are reading article after article, educating themselves along the way and learning, not only about the history of their field of study, but about the future applications of their work and the questions they would like to answer as future scientists. Yoojin Chang '26 shared her thoughts about the symposium saying, "It was so much fun because I got to present the board that I spent a lot of time making. I was not too nervous because I have done a couple presentations like this one before, and I was mostly just excited to talk about my topic of Alzheimer's Disease and answer any questions." Like many high school students, most of the sophomores have participated in middle school science fairs, and like Yoojin, were "immediately interested because there were so many different opportunities that came with the program, like working with a mentor to do research and presenting at the symposium."

Next, the junior class presented their plans for further research of their own. After presenting the work of professional scientists during their sophomore year, these students have been developing their skills and working hard to reach out to mentors, read scholarly articles related to their topics, and develop a plan to execute by their senior year. "It was challenging to find mentors and get a plan together," admitted Ms. Mallia about the junior class, "but they miraculously succeeded. They

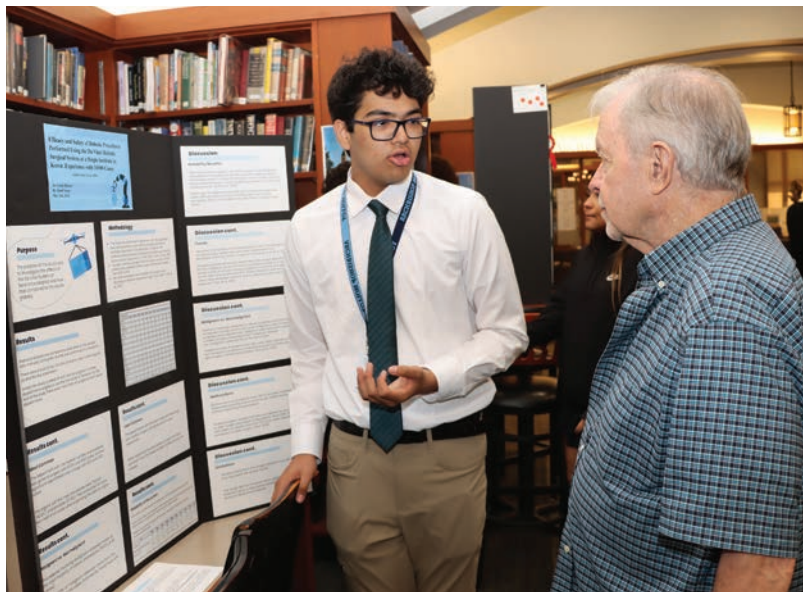


Ariana Ashby '24 presents on flu treatments.

will now move forward to complete their research." We can't wait to see what they accomplish next year!

Finally, the senior class led their final Science Symposium with very bittersweet feelings. Each senior has worked incredibly hard to develop their own project and carry out research with the help of their mentors. These projects were incredibly impressive, and during the symposium, seniors were delivering live presentations every fifteen minutes in the theater and library. Beatrice Armand '24 says, "I was excited and bittersweet about it because my research that I did this year was something personal to me but at the same time it was my last one. I was a little nervous because we had to do live presentations in front of people and not stand by our boards and explain our projects and plans. Every year the symposium shows off the amazing research talent that Molloy has to offer and each year we get to see new amazing discoveries." Astrid Cho '24 commented, "The symposium is always filled with passionate teachers and eager learners; I love that I can walk through such a small space and learn about everything all at once." Astrid's passion for Biomedical Engineering led her to explore many aspects of the field, but her project focused on the accessibility of prosthetic devices. She is currently working with Professor Nikiforov at Duke University, and will be majoring in Biomedical Engineering at Cornell University in the fall.

The Science Research Program delivered an impressive representation of Molloy's Science department this spring, and although students have worked so hard and achieved so much, there is much more to go. Fortunately, each year seems to bring even better results than the last.



Yosef Naser '26 presents his project on robotic surgical systems.

## "VE" Students Take Silver at Youth Business Summit

by Anna Lampman '24

On April 12th, Molloy's Virtual Enterprise class attended the Youth Business Summit at the Javits Convention Center in New York City. Virtual Enterprise is a class offered at Molloy which allows students to create and run their own businesses, and trade with other students' businesses nationally and internationally. This event welcomed VE students from schools in different parts of the United States, as well as many other countries, including Spain, Bolivia, and Germany! "Firms" set up booths at which students could network, make sales, and participate in different games and raffles. Over 4,000 students participated in the event, and one of Molloy's two VE firms, "Job Oracle," earned silver in the Sales Pitch Competition.

Senior Bailey Meier '24, a Virtual Enterprise student, attended the Youth Business Summit. She is the Chief Operating Officer of "Job Oracle," which is designed to help teens train to enter the workforce through workshops and learning videos, and participants receive certificates to add to their resumes. When asked about her experience at the Summit,

Bailey said that she "loved getting to network and meet the students from firms that were not located in the U.S.! It was insightful to learn how their Virtual Enterprise class is run, and to have the chance to meet students from other countries!"

"The business summit at the Javits Center was very unique and a great way to learn how to network with different companies. Going to this event did not feel like classwork, it felt like a real world experience that would better my skills for my future," says Senior Ava Zeni '24, Chief of Human Resources for "Job Oracle."

The Youth Business Summit was certainly a success, according to Mr. Touzin, Molloy's Virtual Enterprise teacher. "Overall, the trade show was a wonderful experience. The students worked extremely hard preparing for the event, and their hard work definitely paid off."

Congratulations to the entire "Job Oracle" senior team!



# Molloy Students Participate In Esopus Runners

by Gabriella Savino '24, Editor-In-Chief

On April 13th, nine current Stanners became official Esopus Runners! Esopus Runners is a fundraiser which hosts an annual 5k and half marathon, dedicated to raising money for improvement projects for the Marist Brothers' Center at Esopus, which is home to the Mid Hudson Valley Camps. This year all funds raised will be used to replace dorm beddings and to build an accessible playground on property, in memory of Molloy alumnus Pat Carroll '81 who recently passed away. Despite cold and windy conditions, Abigail Long '24, Charles Long '26, Delia Locurto '24, Kathleen Gayron '24, Mairead Harkins '24, Gabriella Savino '24, Sophia Hoyt '24, Romulus Czernisz '24 and Brendan Twomey '25 stormed the boardwalk for the 5k race alongside several alumni ready to run for the money they each raised.

The COVID-19 pandemic had negatively impacted the annual Esopus Runners tradition in recent years. Alison Brennan '08 (known to many as Ali B), the coordinator of Esopus Runners, stated, "When returning from post-pandemic closures it was very challenging getting camp counselors, retreaters, and



Molloy Students supported this year's Esopus Runners Fundraiser.

participants for Esopus Runners. Our first in-person Esopus Runners post-pandemic in 2022 had about 12 runners with zero Molloy students participating." However, love for Esopus only continues to grow, and therefore so does a desire to help. This year there were 32 total runners, 9 of which being Molloy students. Ali expressed that, "It was amazing to see the dedication and love for Esopus back and stronger than ever, a task that was made possible thanks to all the volunteers, campus ministers, camp directors, and property staff.

If this event is any indicator of how this summer will be, the campers are in for an incredible time!"

Retreats at Esopus have always been a beloved tradition for so many Molloy students. While many Stanners begin their Esopus journey on a retreat or at Frosh Camp, many have joined the world of Mid Hudson Valley Special Camps, volunteering as counselors, kitchen crew, and maintenance staff. Romulus decided to race because, "As a part of maintenance, I see there is a lot of work to be done all over the property and especially funding the bed frames, pillows, and blankets, will really benefit these camps as a whole." Kathleen's

reason for running was simply, "I just love my campers so much. If I can do anything to help them have a great camp experience, I will."

The success of the Runners can be seen not only in the money raised, but also in the smiles of the runners, cheer squads, friends, and families throughout the event. The Esopus Runners gratefully thank Molloy for continuing their support, providing a space to celebrate the accomplishments of the Runners since 2016.

# The Class of 2025 Embraces Junior Leadership

by RJ Mejia '25

On Tuesday, April 16th, the Class of 2025 was formally recognized as new leaders at Molloy during the Junior Leadership Liturgy. The current senior class has officially passed the torch down to the junior class, as the Class of 2024's graduation is on the horizon. The soon-to-be-rising seniors were handed leadership pins and their class rings following the end of the liturgy. As they bid their days of looking up to the seniors goodbye, they must now become the very seniors they once admired and modeled their own behavior after. The Class of 2025 will become the new exemplars of Marist principles and be the role models that the student body looks up to. These responsibilities come with both excitement and anxiety as the juniors must rise to the challenge of demonstrating what it truly means to be a Stanner for school and for life.

The prospect of becoming a senior in high school often comes with images of maturity and self-growth,

but equally important to self-improvement is involving oneself in their community. As the new student leaders of Molloy, many students of the Class of 2025 are ready to inspire the next generation of Stanners. "It means a lot to be one of Molloy's student leaders," Ava Aruci '25 notes, "since I get to share all my knowledge, wisdom, and experiences with them." The current juniors are prepared to endow their unique knowledge to the underclassmen in the hopes that they can grow to be fulfilled and educated. It's even quite personal for some, such as Nicholas Seibert '25 who says, "I should act in a way that I am a good role model for the incoming freshmen next year, which is especially important for me as my younger brother will be part of this group." Molloy is a family, so it's crucial that the oldest members of that family are ready to showcase to the younger students how to carry themselves with honor and dignity. Many juniors are excited to write

the next chapter in their life, optimistic for the opportunities the future holds.

That isn't to say, however, that the task of student leader doesn't bring about some worries within the soon-to-be-rising seniors. For better or worse, many expectations are heaved onto seniors, especially

with living up to Marist ideals at Molloy. "It's a pretty big task," Nicholas Seibert '25 states, "and can determine how these freshmen's next three years here at Molloy turn out, so I hope I can do a good job with this." The Class of 2025 feels they're at the forefront of many eyes from both underclassmen and administration, bringing about the worry they may potentially fail at being the role models others want them to be. "My biggest anxiety regarding this would probably be giving the underclassmen the wrong advice," remarks another junior, "I really want to guide them in the right direction and I'm anxious that I might not do that." Although leadership is certainly meant to prepare seniors for college and beyond, it may bring about stress that they may not be able to tackle the real world and become the person they aspire to be. These worries may bring about imaginary fears, but the pressure of being the person people look up to is quite real.

As the Class of 2025 assumes the mantle of leadership at Molloy, they are ready to embody the Marist pillars and serve as role models for their peers in spite of their anxieties. Ava Aruci '25 provides a statement that the entirety of the Class of 2025 should follow as they enter senior year: "I want them to know that no matter what decisions or choices they make, God will always have a plan for them." It's important that everyone, freshman or senior, strives for excellence, but it's okay to make mistakes. We're all human, and that's okay. As such, we should all root for the Class of 2025 as they lead the Stanner community in the upcoming 2024-25 school year!



## The Stanner - Volume LXVII - Issue No. 3

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# Radio Bingo: A Party With A Purpose

by Ryan Ladd '25, Associate Editor



On May 3rd, the GERLL Club hosted Radio Bingo in Molloy's Jack Curran Gym. The night was filled with food, prizes, music, and of course, many incredibly fun rounds of musical Bingo. Behind the festivities of the event was a fundraiser for an important cause at Molloy—the Girls' Leadership Scholarship Fund.

All of the proceeds from Radio Bingo go to fund the Girls' Leadership Scholarship Fund, which has been around at Molloy since 2018. "The goal of this scholarship is to offer financial assistance as well as mentoring to incoming female students who might not otherwise be able to afford to attend Molloy," says Mrs. Kobinski '04, a GERLL Club moderator and one of the coordinators of Radio Bingo. GERLL Club members and faculty helped to facilitate the sale of pizza, snacks,

drinks, and raffle tickets the whole night, raising money to help future female Stanners.

The event was emceed by DJs@Work, who played songs that showed up on the Bingo cards that were given to each player. The night started with a "Motown Sounds" card, then transitioned to "Party Favorites," giving players from all generations a chance to enjoy the music and win all kinds of prizes for scoring bingo. Students, parents, and faculty all competed to get one-line bingo, four-corner bingo, and full-card bingo to be able to claim a gift in reward. There were also several dance challenges and games for each table to play, making the night a lively celebration.

Radio Bingo ended with a 50/50 raffle and prize baskets being raffled off, each donated by Molloy clubs

and teams to support the cause. Mrs. Kobinski thanks the GERLL Club for all their help and dedication, stating, "Having the GERLL Club to help put Ms. Henning and I at ease is great because we knew whatever task we gave the members they would put in 110%." She also commented that it took "a beehive" of people to organize the promotion, decorations, raffles, and all the other aspects that went into the spirited occasion.

It is no doubt that the event was a huge success, proving to be an entertaining time for everyone who attended. Radio Bingo was an amazing way to enjoy a Friday night while coming together to support the next generation of female students at Molloy.

# Scandinavian Adventures: Molloy's Europe Trip

by Enda Connolly '27 & Sebastian Castillo '27

As per recent Easter break tradition, Molloy has hosted yet another trip to a different corner of the globe. This April, Molloy trekked out to the chilly and frosty north of Europe - Scandinavia - led by Ms. Dorothy DeNoto.

The trip started in Denmark, in the city of Copenhagen, where Stanners got their first taste of Scandinavia - that being cold and wet weather. However behind the depressing climate, a plethora of amazing sights, interesting history, and immersive culture was to be found. Although their time in Copenhagen was the shortest, it was a favorite among many of the students. This can be attributed to the nonstop action in the city, from frightening ghost tours to the exciting Tivoli Gardens Theme Park.

Moving past Copenhagen, Stanners took an overnight ferry to their next destination, Norway, in which they visited three cities: Oslo, Geilo, and Bergen. Arriving in Oslo, they experienced the bustling city intertwined with art, nature, impressive architecture, and a culture infatuated with skiing, mountain sports, and all things cold. Following this, Geilo was the spot between metropolises, where they saw the beautiful fjords and scraping mountains of the north. The last stop in Norway was Bergen, a city with a little less than 300,000 people, making Bergen the densest populated city visited during the trip. Bergen is a gorgeous and historic city, with wonderful marketplaces and impressive architecture, from the Rosenkrantz Tower to awe-inspiring structures built into the mountains.

Finally, the last city on the trip was Stockholm, the capital of Sweden and a place known by many as the land of meatballs, IKEA, and ABBA. Visiting Stockholm though, you can see much more than what is commonly known, sharing similar architecture, old towns, and sea-front culture to New York City. Its bustling city and shopping centers, as well as the ethnic diversity seen on streets and in local businesses also parallel the Big Apple. Like the other cities, Stockholm has a rich royal history, providing Stanners with jaw dropping palaces, royal courtyards, and statues scattered throughout the beautifully designed city.

Scandinavia is such an overlooked part of Europe, almost never mentioned with the likes of France, Italy or Spain, but is definitely worth a visit with some of the kindest and most optimistic people in the world. This trip created many memories for both the students and chaperones alike, memories which will be cherished and looked back upon for many years to come. In all, this was another *Non scholae sed vitae* experience!



## The Spring Sports Summary

by Marissa Roca '24

The birds are chirping, flowers are blooming, and Mister Softee is back in town. That can only mean one thing: spring is here, which means it's time for some great sports at Molloy! This 2024 spring season is a special one, as we see a large number of talented athletes rising up and finishing their time at Molloy.

Firstly, our baseball and softball teams are once again dominating the league as always. Both the JV and Varsity softball squads have won nearly every game, and have put up over 10 runs in multiple games. At the time of publication, Varsity was ranked number 5 in New York State, with a league record of 15-3. This star studded team has four athletes committed to college: Jovanna Donaruma '24 and Ava Hershkovitz '24 will play at Adelphi University, Marylou Piazza '24 is off to Iona University, and you can catch Gia Spinelli '24 at Fordham University this fall! These talented seniors, alongside seniors Makayla Stevenson '24 and Marissa Roca '24, were recognized for their hard work on April 27th, 2024 for Senior Day against Moore Catholic. The team is off to Boston on Mother's Day weekend to compete against Massachusetts's highly ranked team, Central Catholic High School.

On the boys side, the energy is just as high. The Stanners have taken key victories over St. Francis Prep and Xavierian so far. They took a spring break trip to Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, where they went 3-0 in a tournament featuring teams from across the United States. Varsity baseball also has some committed seniors, including Sebastian Sanchez '24 who is off to the John Jay College of Criminal Justice, Keylon Canela '24 who will be playing at the University of Mount Saint Vincent, Sean Stoney '24 will join the team at Lincoln University, and Julian Díaz '24 will play at SUNY Purchase. The baseball lineup is stacked, and because of that the team gets to bring out the home run chain for their pictures on the Molloy Athletics Instagram (Follow @molloyhs\_athletics if you haven't already)! Congrats to both of these extremely talented teams.

Next, we have a growing program at Molloy, the lacrosse teams! Our girls squad has been killing it for years,

competing with tough schools such as Sacred Heart Academy, Xavierian, and more. On April 30th, the Varsity squad took on St. Francis Prep for their Senior Day, celebrating a whopping 11 talented and dedicated players. Led by head coach Ms. Alison Scalice, the girls show dedication and perseverance in a sport that's not as common in Queens.

This year is a historic one for lacrosse, as it is the debut of boys lacrosse at Molloy! Coached by Mr. Joseph Beaudet and Mr. Christopher Adamek, the boys squad came together this year for the first time, after countless open gyms and interest meetings. The team secured the first ever Molloy Boys Lacrosse win on April 16th against Bishop Loughlin High School with a nail biting score of 5-4. They've competed with schools such as Mount St. Michael and Jamaica High School throughout this pilot season. Congrats to both squads and stay awesome!

Spring also brings round two for our tennis team, this time the boys! The team is coached by Ms. Mary Edward '13, and has shown some strength in the league. They had a key victory over Iona Prep this month, led by seniors Timotej Stofa '24 and Jose Pouso '24. Doubles duo Jack Faulkner '26 and Noah Mignot '25 also pulled through in that heated match with a score of 3-2. The team has also secured wins over rivals St. Francis Prep, with a key match taken by Daniel Giovanniello '24. Our Co-Ed golf team has also been showing up to compete this season. Coached by Mr. Chris Murphy '87, the team secured a win over Msgnr. McClancy High School, with top notch performances from Josh Williams '24, Nicole Yao '26, and more.

Finally, as always, our track team continues to dominate. This spring, the team has seen big competitions such as the Iona Prep/Ursuline Invitational, the Big Blue



Invitational, NY Relays, and the nationally recognized Penn Relays. The girls relay team Jenna Wright '24, Brianna Polisenio '25, Maria Badalamenti '25, and Eva Gonzalez '24 set a school record for the 1600 SMR at the NY Relays. In the same meet, boys team Brandon Notice '26, Stephen Tsmisiris '24, Nicolas Ospina '25, and Garrett Ryan '25 set the school record for the 800 SMR. As if two records weren't enough, girls relay team Jenna Wright, Eva Gonzalez, Maria Badalamenti, and Camille Munoz '25 set another school record for the 4x400 Relay at the Penn Relays, a national tournament. Camille Munoz is also statewide and nationally ranked in the heptathlon after breaking multiple school records. Congrats to the track team on another great season!

As the weather gets warmer, and school comes to a close, it comes time for new beginnings as well as endings. With the end of the school year approaching, I wanted to take a moment to congratulate all the senior athletes on making it through! Whether it be your first year or fourth, sports take a lot of hard work and dedication which you all have exemplified. As a senior myself, thank you for letting me report on Molloy sports for the past few years! It's been an absolute pleasure bringing you the latest in Molloy Athletics.

## The First Year for Boys Lacrosse!

by Amy Vu '25

In the beginning of the 2023-24 school year, the idea of introducing a new boys lacrosse team was on many students' minds. While working at the fall Open House, junior Brendan Twomey '25 saw a boys lacrosse sign-up sheet, and hopes of a boys lacrosse team in the following spring season developed. Fortunately, for Brendan and many others, a boys lacrosse open gym was offered during the winter, with a newly formed boys lacrosse team taking shape in the 2024 Spring season. To kick off the first ever season of boys lacrosse, 33 headed to practice at Alley Pond Park with Mr. Beaudet as head coach and Mr. Adamek assisting him.

So why did Molloy decide to start a boys lacrosse team now, instead of having one established before? According to Mr. Beaudet, "The game of lacrosse has grown exponentially over the past 20+ years, but not so fast in NYC." However, within the past couple of years, Mr. Beaudet says that he's noticed lacrosse's popularity rising among the youth and high school level kids in New York City due to the size of the CHSAA boys lacrosse league tripling over the past five years. Because of this, Mr. Beaudet and Mr. Adamek thought that "the timing seemed right to start a program here at Molloy," and many male Stanners seem to agree. Mr. Beaudet started playing lacrosse his freshman year of high school. He continued playing at a Division 1 level at Fairfield University where he became the captain of the team his senior year and led his team to win their league. After graduating, Mr. Beaudet went on to work

at several college recruiting camps and clinics and coached various youth teams on and off over the past 15 years. As for his assistant coach, Mr. Adamek played lacrosse at the University of Pittsburgh and has been coaching youth lacrosse for the past five to six years. With the start of the boys lacrosse season this year, Mr. Beaudet has initial hopes of expanding and growing the program, becoming a competitive team, and ultimately being able to win their division within the CHSAA. From there, aspirations of moving up divisions and competing against more traditional lacrosse schools follow. However, the ultimate goal of Mr. Beaudet, Mr. Adamek, and all of the boys on the team is to have lots of fun along the way!

As for the boys on the team, co-captains Romulus Czernisz '24, Matthew Leonard '24, Brendan Twomey '25, and Thomas Kelly '25 are more than excited to participate in this sport with their school for many reasons, one of them being that lacrosse is very similar to some other sports they play. For example, Thomas Kelly '25 shares that he has sufficient background in Ireland's national sport, hurling, which is very similar to lacrosse. Like Thomas, Oliver Zimic '25, a member of the hockey team during the winter season, joined lacrosse because of his ability in hockey and how he found the two sports to be similar. He also wanted to join lacrosse to "meet new people," which worked out in his favor because of how he is now able to "enjoy the friendships that [he has] made and fun bus trips." Like his upperclassman teammate, Joey Fecentese '27 decided to try lacrosse out because it was a "new sport" for him that he found interesting and wanted to try.



Many of the boys lacrosse team members enjoy being on the team for various reasons. Co-Captain Romulus Czernisz says that he finds the games thrilling, "which is what really make the sport for people." This competitive and passionate spirit was what eventually led to the first boys lacrosse victory in Molloy history against Bishop Laughlin and their second victory against Cardinal Spellman. Since Rom is a senior, this will be Rom's first and last lacrosse season as a high school student. He said that it felt great "being part of the first win ever in the program's history," and that he's "glad that [the team] got a memorable win, which will be one of many for [the] program moving forward."

The addition of the boys lacrosse team is a new and exciting chapter for athletic life at Molloy. If you're a boy and you're interested in showing your competitive side, meeting new people, or just being more involved in your school community, you're highly encouraged to join the lacrosse team! For the rest of the Stanner population, you can be a part of the boys lacrosse community by attending their home games at St. John's University or by visiting one of their away games to cheer them on!