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Girls Varsity Swimming Dominates with 12-0 Season

by Brendan Twomey '25

The girls varsity swim team just concluded the 2023-24 season as undefeated City Champs! Their 12-0 record made them Brooklyn/Queens Champions, and their final win of the season clinched them the title of City Champions!

Throughout the season, Molloy's swimmers showed excellence in the water, which was reflected in their championships. Many swimmers were invited back to championship finals, which only took the top 24 swimmers in each event. Along with this, some were able to swim in the "A" heat of their event, which is only for the top 8 swimmers. These top swimmers included Caterina Romano '26 who placed 5th overall in the 200 Freestyle and 7th in the 500 Freestyle, Delia Locurto '24 who placed 7th in the 200 Individual Medley and 5th in the 100 Freestyle, Aoife Garvey '25 who placed 2nd in the 200 Individual Medley and the 100 Breaststroke, Izzy Flores '24 who placed 2nd in the 50 Freestyle and the 100 Freestyle, Grace Gilroy '24 who placed 8th in the 200 Individual Medley and 7th in the 100 Backstroke, Mackenzie Capria '26 who placed 6th in the 200 Individual Medley and 6th in the 100 Freestyle, Karolina Heerey '26 who placed 8th in the 50 Freestyle and 4th in the 100 Butterfly, and Alice Martin '24 who placed 8th in the 100 Butterfly.

Aside from their accomplishments in the pool, a few of Molloy's swimmers were presented with awards from the CHSAA. The first award was the All League Award, which was given to Delia Locurto, Izzy Flores, and Aoife Garvey. This award was for the swimmers who had shown the most remarkable performance throughout this past season and represented their school in the best way possible. As mentioned, all three of these athletes were some of the top swimmers in their events, and were integral to the team's success this season. The second award given was the Joe and Anna Stetz Career Swimmer Award, which was given to



Grace Gilroy '24. This award, voted on by all the swim coaches in the CHSAA, was presented to a senior who made finals all three years leading up to their senior year of high school. Grace has been a valued member of the swim team since her freshman year, following in the footsteps of her older sisters who also swam at Molloy before her. The final award was the Vinny Harkins Coach of the Year Award, which was given to our team's coach, Ms. Heather Green-Wresch. This award was given to the coach who showed the best leadership in guiding their team to success. Ms. Green-Wresch has been Molloy's swim coach for 24 years and has guided many swimmers to continue on with the sport at the collegiate level.

From start to finish, the girls had a great season and completed it in the best way possible. We hope that in coming years, the team will continue to be as successful as they were this year. Congratulations to everyone on a great season, and a special congratulations to everyone who won an award, especially to Ms. Green-Wresch!



Pictured Top: Girls Varsity Swim Team celebrates their city championship and undefeated season.

Pictured Bottom: Career Swimmer Award winner Grace Gilroy '24 and Coach of the Year winner Ms. Heather Green-Wresch.

Girls Track & Field Continues to Dominate

by The Stanner Staff

Girls Track and Field has continued to dominate in the winter season! *The Stanner* proudly shares just some of their many recent accomplishments.

On Saturday, January 27th, the team captured the Brooklyn/Queens and New York City CHSAA Sectional Championships at the 168th Street Armory. City team scores were: Molloy 46 | St. Joseph-by-the-Sea 44 | SFP 30. Brooklyn/Queens team scores were: Molloy 58 | SFP 54 | TMLA 54.

Standout Performances from the aforementioned Sectional Championships include: Camille Munoz '25 was the B/Q and City Champion in the 55m Hurdles and High Jump. Eva Gonzalez '24 was the B/Q Champion in the 600m. Caroline Rozmus '24 was the B/Q and City Champion in the Pole Vault. The 4x800m Relay team of Maria Badalamenti '25, Aoife



Left: 4x400m Relay team of Camille, Eva, Jenna, and Maria.

Garvey '25, Kylie Liriano-Montalvo '25, and Gianna Gonzalez '27 were B/Q Champions. Saige Swift '25 was the B/Q Champion and voted Outstanding B/Q

Field Performer in the Triple Jump.

At this year's Ocean Breeze Invitational, Camille Munoz broke her own Pentathlon school record of 2,742, previously set in June 2023. Camille's new

record is an impressive 2,924! Camille now ranks #1 in New York State and #16 in the nation! The Pentathlon is a track and field event featuring five different events, including 55m High Hurdles, High Jump, Shot Put, Long Jump, and the 800m Run.

At this year's Milrose Games, the team of Maria Badalamenti, Eva Gonzalez, Camille Munoz, and Jenna Wright '24 won the CHSAA 4x400m Relay with a time of 4:06.17. This

broke Molloy's school record set back in 2010 by over 4 seconds! Milrose Games is a prestigious annual Track and Field event that showcases many incredible student-athletes from across the country.

Congratulations to all Stanner track and field athletes on their continued success!

A Look Into Molloy's Growing Murphy Scholars Program

by Ryan Ladd '25, Associate Editor

So many of Molloy's accomplished students endeavor to participate in educational summer programs, but are hindered by their extensive costs. To ensure that Stanners can continue their learning over summer break, Molloy offers the Murphy Scholars program to relieve families of the financial burden of application fees.

The Murphy Scholars program was created to encourage students to take part in enrichment programs over the summer by aiding in the payment. It was named after Dr. Patrick Murphy '60, an immensely influential figure in the Guidance Department at Molloy. In his time at Molloy, he regularly motivated students to step outside of the familiarity of Queens, New York and experience the world. This is exactly what the Murphy Scholars program gives students the opportunity to do— have educational experiences outside of Molloy. It awards scholarships to students to help cover the cost of the summer program of their choice. For Murphy Scholars, attending summer programs can become much more accessible, especially to students who would not be able to afford them otherwise.

Murphy Scholars is an incredible opportunity for all Stanners. Summer programs are a great way for students to gain experiences and skills that they can use in their classrooms and in their day to day lives. Mr. Esgro, one of Molloy's college guidance counselors who works closely with the Murphy Scholars, states, "By getting students out into the world to see different college campuses and experience programs, they can expand their minds to what else is out there. Once they do that, they can bring what they learned back to Molloy, which ultimately enriches the student body." Colleges also love to see that students are taking initiative and expanding their knowledge in various fields of study, so listing that you participated in a summer program is an impressive attribute that students can use when applying to colleges. Summer programs also give students the ability to discover what they would like to pursue in college and in the future. The kinds of



Nikitas Vlachos '25 at Stevens Institute of Tech.



Leah Hui '25 at Fairfield University.

programs students can take part in are limitless, so students can try programs in any field of study they may be interested in.

According to Mr. Esgro, students have been able to partake in medicine, health sciences, law, public policy, political science, business, and STEM programs, and even more unique fields like theater arts and culinary arts. One Murphy Scholar, senior Marissa Roca '24, participated in the Mercy University Business Honors Summer Leadership Academy in Dobbs Ferry, New York. She acclaimed the program, expressing that she "was able to take classes, get hands-on experience, and visit corporate offices to get a real feel for the business world." She also shares that along with being educationally fulfilling, it was an extremely fun time that allowed her to make lasting connections. On her overall experience as a Murphy Scholar, she states, "With a program like Murphy Scholars, it was possible for me to have an amazing week living on a campus and trying new things. I would absolutely recommend other students to apply, because it opens doors that might not be available to some. It can help students learn about the college experience, as well as solidify or discover their educational interests."

Junior Niyat Issak '25 shared similar sentiments

towards the Murphy Scholars program. Through Murphy Scholars, she completed The Pre-Medical: Human Anatomy and Physiology Program by Harvard Student Agencies at the Harvard John A. Paulson School of Engineering and Applied Sciences. There, she had the "privilege to delve into various aspects of medical sciences, including Cardiology, Pulmonology, Radiology, and more." Additionally, she states, "I not only gained knowledge but also had the opportunity to work on a case study with a group of amazing individuals, learning the art of efficient teamwork." Niyat encourages students to look into Murphy Scholars, reflecting that the summer program she participated in, "has illuminated [her] passion for a career in medicine, which has been a lifelong dream, and has motivated [her] to strive for more."

If there are any Stanners who are interested in pursuing a summer program, but are hesitant due to the costs, the Murphy Scholars is a fantastic path to take. Applications are currently open for 2024, and can be found in an email from Mr. Esgro. For any additional information, email Mr. Esgro at gesgro@molloyhs.org or visit the College Guidance office on the second floor.

A Few Thoughts on Retreats at Molloy

Op-Ed by Jules Nohar '25 | Photos: Campus Ministry

As a Marist school, Molloy hosts retreats for each grade level at the Marist Brothers' Center at Esopus every school year. The goals of these retreats are for students to feel seen, known, and loved, as well as reflect on life and live out the Marist Mission. On a daily basis, students are on their phones, scrolling through social media, and have lots of assignments to complete, but Esopus is the best way to disconnect from the outside world and connect with your peers, learn more about yourself, and "retreat" from everyday responsibilities.

On these retreats, some of the well-known activities are Friday Night Dodgeball, Saturday Night Flag, group workshops, and creative activities. Students learn how they impact those around us, and how they can learn more about the Marist Mission and how to bring what they've discovered back to the halls of Stanner High. There are small group sessions with our classmates, morning and night prayers, various reflections throughout the day, and talks of inspiration from our upperclassmen. Being at the Marist Brothers'

Center at Esopus, there's a true sense of serenity being out of our regular city environment, opening a way to feel grounded and connected with yourself and those around you. Esopus is a home away from home, allowing those involved to be their true selves and be present with God and those around you.

Molloy hosts Freshman, Sophomore, and Junior Retreats, as well as Senior Encounters, all at Esopus. During the Soph Retreat, coordinated by Ms. Haslbauer and Mr. O'Reilly '14, students learned what it means to be "Known and Loved." The retreat focused on the Marist Mission of making Jesus known and loved through the five Marks of a Marist Student. Students saw not only how to make Jesus known and loved, but how He knows and loves everyone as well. Similarly, during the Junior Retreat, students learned to "Let Go and Let God." That retreat was coordinated by Ms. Edward '13 and Mr. Autera '16, and it focused on facing the stresses and challenges of junior year, understanding our relationships, and coming to terms with who we are.

The overarching themes of these retreats are for students to come to feel more comfortable with their faith, see their sense of community grow at Molloy, and learn how we can live out our faith in simple yet effective ways that bring us closer to God and each other. While also recognizing our Marist Mission and living out our faith, these retreats are for students to remember their worth and embrace all that they are. In the midst of our busy lives, these retreats are amazing opportunities to let go of what's weighing us down and let God lift our burdens. With embracing ourselves, connecting with those around us, and retreating from our busy and bustling lives, we can forget about our big exams next week and grow in our faith and in ourselves.

If you would like to learn more about yourself, connect with your friends outside of the classroom, learn more about the Marist Mission, and strengthen your relationship with God, keep your eyes peeled for your next class retreat or Marist Youth opportunity.



Watch the Stanner Players Perform ‘Mamma Mia!’ This Spring

by Jiah Patel '27

Get ready to sing, dance, and have a blast at this year's spring musical as the Stanner Players present the smash hit 'Mamma Mia!' The show, running through April 18–21 in the Ralph DeChiaro Theater, is the perfect opportunity to have a great time while watching the Stanner Players bring the stage to life with some of ABBA's greatest hits.

Director Ms. Winters '06 says, "People should come see the show because there are songs that everyone knows and there will be a lot of singing and dancing, and hopefully the audience will have a good time." The cast meets multiple times a week for rehearsal and is working hard on choreography and running lines, with Ms. Winters commenting, "I love watching choreography rehearsals come together. I like how in the beginning of rehearsal we don't have anything, and how later it's amazing."

The play, which centers on 20-year-old Sophie, a young woman who tries to find out her father's identity before her wedding, is a fun and upbeat Broadway classic that anyone can enjoy. The cast and crew are very excited to put on this year's musical. Jackie



Capra '25, who plays Rosie Mulligan, says, "People should come to see 'Mamma Mia!' because it is a fun and upbeat show with insanely popular ABBA songs that almost everyone knows." Much of the cast agrees that there will be a lot of memorable moments at the show. Come support the Stanner Players this spring as they dance, jive, and have the time of their lives!

***IMPORTANT: This year, ALL tickets must be purchased in advance online. Tickets will NOT be sold at the door.**

Performance Dates

4/18 @ 2:30pm* 4/20 @ 7:00pm

4/19 @ 7:00pm 4/21 @ 2:00pm

*4/18 show for students & faculty only.

Review

Nancy Jane Harlan for The Stanner! The Stanner Players Present: Radium Girls

by Isabella Fortunato '26 | Photos by Krystal Valentin '25



Molloy's Stanner Players started the year with their fall play, *Radium Girls!* There were four performances of the play, two held on November 16th, one show on November 18th, and the final show on November 19th. Director Ms. Shannon Winters '06, Assistant Director Ms. Joanna Troyanos '15, cast, and crew dedicated many hours to rehearsals to make the play a success.

Based on a true story, *Radium Girls* takes place in 1920s Orange, New Jersey. The play tells the story of how radium, a miracle cure that was used to paint watches, began to cause poisoning to those working with it. The girls who worked in factories and created these glow-in-the-dark watches were instructed to lick the tips of their paint brushes to create a fine point. This caused many of these women to fall ill from ingesting the radium. *Radium Girls* portrays Grace Fryer and her fellow workers' fight for justice as they and others advocated for their family and friends against the U.S. Radium Corporation.

Stage manager Anna Lampman '24 said, "*Radium Girls* is one of my favorite Stanner Players productions yet! The story is so moving, and I'm so proud of how the cast portrayed it. The cast worked tirelessly throughout the rehearsal process, and it turned out beautifully. As a stage manager, it's such a special experience to see the crew work to bring the show together, and allow

the cast to shine on stage." The stage managers work diligently to oversee the cast during the rehearsal process while also leading the crew. They also double as running crew members during performances to ensure props are moved efficiently and professionally.

An immense amount of effort was put into portraying a story that has such deep meaning and significance in the modern world. Director Ms. Winters is "proud of the cast and crew for being able to portray this historical drama and shedding light on an unknown story. The actors were able to work with the assistant director, Ms. Troyanos, who helped the Stanner Players with character development and expressing themselves through the characters they were playing." The Stanner Players did an astonishing job embracing this tragic and somber story with determination and passion. From auditions in September to productions in November, the actors were dedicated to portraying these historical characters appropriately and with complete passion.

Michelle Ramirez '24 felt accomplished to complete her final play, and pleased with the commitment and enthusiasm of her fellow Stanner Players. "I think what makes the play *Radium Girls* so special is the way that it tells a true life story. I also believe what made it special was that the Stanner Players produced this show with respect for story, and we told it with such

vulnerability. We don't just play the characters, we become the characters. This particular show had such a rough story to tell. I may be biased, but I feel like my Stanner Players family really showed up and acted with our hearts, as we always strive to do." Michelle is proud of her best friend, Charlize Collado '24, who played Grace Fryer. When playing this role and acting out the scenes, Charlize truly felt the emotion of what she was acting out.

Sofia Maroulis '25 was honored to play a role in bringing this story to life on the Ralph DeChiaro Theater stage. Playing Kathryn Schaub was "the biggest privilege I've had thus far. Also, working alongside Charlize Collado, who played Grace Fryer, to show the depth of the agony these girls experienced was euphoric and amazing."

The audience enjoyed the production of *Radium Girls* as it touched the hearts of many and left them with a sense of inspiration and sympathy towards the situation. A show full of tears, shock, and laughter resonated with audiences, leaving a significant impact on them. It conveyed an important message about consumerism and the conditions of workers that are often overlooked.

Molloy Hosts African Art Exhibit

by Gabriella Savino '24, Editor-In-Chief | Photos by Ms. Basone '15

Stanner parent Mr. Damani Nyahuma has always been an active member of the Molloy community. While his daughter Kamara attended Molloy, he was a member of the Parents' Guild and the Molloy School Board. He remains an influential Stanner parent each year, as he returns to exhibit his incredible collection of traditional African artifacts and artworks for the current students to appreciate. Among his collection, Mr. Nyahuma has gathered statues and sculptures from West Africa, including pieces from native tribes spanning across Ghana and Egypt, as well as more modern works of African American art, some of which came from the Birmingham Museum in Alabama.

When asked what inspired Mr. Nyahuma to collect such artifacts, he responded, "When you become a collector it's never on purpose. You see something, you feel smitten, you like it, you get it. And the next thing you know, you've started to collect things. It's like an evolution." However, Mr. Nyahuma says the main inspiration behind his collection is wanting to understand and embrace culture.

Several teachers took the opportunity to have their students immerse themselves in Mr. Nyahuma's exhibit. While speaking to one 10th grade class, Mr. Nyahuma explained that, "Everything here is different from last year's exhibit and gives a broad spectrum of items that speak to different aspects of African culture." He then detailed the significance of culture and tradition as well as the importance of understanding personal history and the roots of where we all come from.

Dr. Alice Prince, Molloy's Diversity & Inclusion consultant, stated, "I think regardless of it being Black History Month, I believe it is so important for us to embrace culture. This exhibit is amazing and we are also going to be procuring more cultural exhibits in the future." She believes that cultural exhibits like Mr. Nyahuma's are impactful for students. Much like the origins of the Sankofa bird statue, we must "go back and fetch our past." Through Mr. Nyahuma's exhibit, students got to witness not just any old work of art, but pieces that hold meaning and resemble generations of traditions that led to today.



SENIOR SPOTLIGHTS

by Sofia Crino '26

Molloy fosters stellar students who work hard inside and out of the classroom. Gabriella Savino '24 is a dedicated Stanner who is driven academically and athletically and exemplifies the qualities of a true leader.

Gabby is a fantastic student-athlete and has played basketball at Molloy for all four years of her high school career. She started playing in first grade and has loved it ever since. Gabby's passion for basketball goes beyond playing, as she has also assisted in coaching a sixth-grade boys basketball team at her former middle school. Aside from basketball, Gabby has participated in other sports here at Molloy, like soccer and lacrosse. She has also been writing for *The Stanner* newspaper since sophomore year and became the Editor-in-Chief this year! Furthermore, Gabby is an outstanding leader and is dedicated to doing acts of service. She has been a freshman and sophomore retreat leader, a Freshman Camp counselor, and is currently a Peer Group Leader and Spirit Leader. Gabby is a member of the Special Activities Team and volunteers at Special Camps in Esopus over the summer as well. Her love for volunteer work and leadership positions are a testament to her compassionate and dedicated character!



Gabby is also a student who excels academically at Molloy! She is a member of the National Honor Society and is taking many rigorous classes this year, like AP Biology, AP English Language, AP Government, and Calculus. She doesn't have a favorite class, as she enjoys them all! Gabby hasn't decided what college she will be attending in the fall, but she knows that college will be a different experience, considering she will hopefully be living in a new state. She plans on pursuing a major

in business with the goal of becoming a lawyer. Gabby ultimately looks forward to meeting new people in college and advancing toward a professional career!

Gabby has made many memories during her four years at Molloy, but her most cherished memories come from Esopus. One of her favorite memories was her junior retreat. The first time she went on the retreat, she enjoyed it so much that she decided to go again! While Esopus is definitely a top memory, the little things truly make Gabby the happiest. She loves decorating her locker, talking with her favorite teachers, and laughing at the lunch table. She will genuinely miss the sense of family she has felt at Molloy. Gabby says, "Being able to connect with faculty and staff on a personal level and knowing that there is always someone to go to really made Molloy my favorite place to be these past few years."

Gabby is an intelligent, motivated, and athletic senior who has involved herself in the Molloy community in more ways than one. She is dependable and driven and it's evident that she values service towards others. Gabby's contributions to Molloy serve as an inspiration for others and she will undoubtedly make a positive mark wherever she heads in the future!

by Andrew Perez '24

Oliver Sharkey '24 has had an outstanding Molloy career and continuously lives out his goals, reaping the benefits of his hard work. He is a driven AP student, an officer in many clubs, and a role model for underclassmen. Outside of school, Oliver is a successful musician who has taken part in multiple bands and performed for audiences across America. Events include live television broadcasts, New York's Governor's Ball Music Festival, and tours through multiple states with the band School of Rock.

Oliver has used his talents to contribute to the Molloy community at every opportunity possible, and his wide array of titles reflects this. He is a S.M.I.L.E. Club discussion leader, guiding students through nuanced meetings ranging from light-hearted games to vulnerable conversation. He is President of the Guitar Ensemble where he shares his musical talent and prepares students for performances as well as providing lessons on improving instrumental skills, even giving instruction to beginners. Oliver is an officer in the Political Science Club in which he leads students through organized exchanges regarding recent political topics. He is also Chieftain of The Music Club, providing topics for open-minded discussions about all forms of music and emphasizing the importance of



understanding that taste is subjective. He leads retreats at Esopus, assisting students with their struggles and organizing activities. Oliver is also a member of the Irish Club, where he helps spread his culture throughout our school, providing Irish students with a voice in our wonderfully diverse community. Not only does Oliver have this expansive list of credentials in extracurriculars, but he is also just as successful academically. He is a thriving Honors and AP student, having received a spot on the Honor Roll on numerous occasions and taken classes such as AP Psychology, AP

U.S. History, AP U.S. Government and Politics, and his favorites College Chemistry and AP European History.

Oliver's inspirational ambition doesn't end when he walks out the doors of Molloy. He has led and participated in numerous bands; with his help these bands have reached great levels of success. Oliver has gone on tour across multiple states, professional photographers and excited crowds waiting at each destination. He has also appeared on national television, once casually missing a school day to go play in a studio for all of America. Despite having enjoyed these once in a lifetime achievements, there's more! Oliver has also performed a full set at New York's Governor's Ball Music Festival in front of thousands of people among the likes of notable musicians such as Ice Spice, Metro Boomin, and Lil Nas X.

Oliver's consistent determination, execution, and humility have made him a key figure among the Class of 2024. Today he still persists, with plans on possibly going to college in Ireland and pursuing his music career even further than he already has, writing his own music. His story isn't anywhere near over and it's been a privilege to witness his growth and endless contributions to the Molloy community. He will remain an inspiration to countless Stanners even beyond graduating from Molloy!

The Stanner Crossword Puzzle

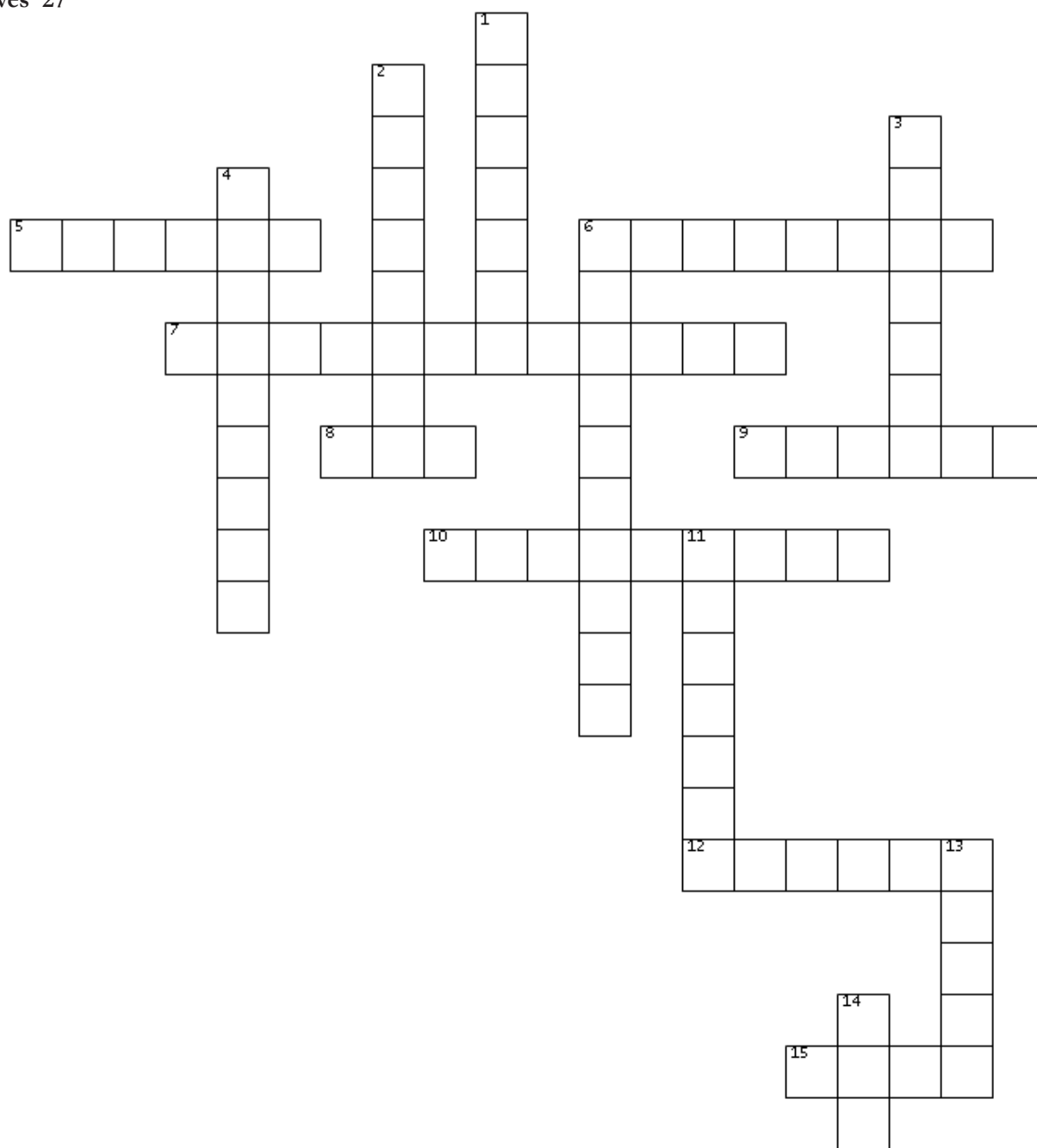
by Sandra Goncalves '27

ACROSS

5. Our step team is called the First _____
6. Finish the phrase: Non scholae _____
7. Our school is named after Archbishop _____ Molloy
8. Marist Brother that teaches Chemistry; was also Molloy's principal
9. Front gym is named after Jack _____
10. Student portal for classes
12. Marist Brother retreat house location
15. Animal mascot of Molloy

DOWN

1. "Not for school but..."
2. Our theater is named after Ralph _____
3. What a Molloy student is called
4. Marist Brother that founded St. Ann's Academy
6. Marist Pillar of being straightforward, humble, and modest, "doing good quietly"
11. Molloy crest includes a lion, a Marist M, and a _____
13. Molloy opened in Nineteen Fifty _____
14. Molloy's campus is located on _____ acres of land



*ANSWERS ON PAGE 6.

The Stanner Comics

by Sebastian Castillo '27 & Enda Connolly '27

*DISCLAIMER: The following "AD" is for entertainment purposes only. No cups will be sold!!

Have you been wanting to show off your Stanner Spirit?

But have you also wanted a fashionable way to drink liquids? You can have them both in one magnificent cup!

For a limited time:
Each cup comes free with a copy of your report card!

Enjoy your beverage in a stylish cup adorned with all the Stannerly goodness you could possibly need!



- Proudly Featuring "Stanley the Lion"

- Uses the Archbishop Molloy AM logo in a fashionable, handbook approved manner

- "This is punderful" -Dr. Penikas*probably*

Introducing:
The STANNER Cup™!

Now in:
- Blue
- Dark Blue
- Even DARKER blue

Promposals: Affectionate or Discomforting?

by RJ Mejia '25

Although often seen as a cliché in high school or college romcom movies, promposals are a very real thing that exist with school-wide events such as dances and balls. The word is derived from combining “prom” and “proposal” together, but promposals couldn’t be any more different than your traditional proposal. The premise of a promposal is that an individual asks to be the prom date of another individual, often with romantic implications to accepting the invitation. These gestures are often extravagant and public, with days or even weeks of planning behind asking out your date to be with you for the prom.

Within Molloy, promposals have been explicitly banned by the Administration. On January 11th of this year, Mr. Auer sent out an email to juniors and seniors of the Stanner student body detailing that promposals wouldn’t be allowed, under any circumstances, within school grounds. With that being said, are promposals just a harmless sign of affection or could there be more discomforting implications?

To many young men and women, promposals are a spectacular way of asking your date or crush out to prom. Many promposals are extravagant in nature, and are thus meant to show the dedication and care you hold for the other person. The ban of promposals came as a surprise to many juniors and seniors who have expressed their confusion over the ban. “I

personally believe that promposals are a good way for the students to express themselves,” expresses Gavriel Rodriguez ‘25, “and by restricting these events, we take away opportunities for students to make memories that they can carry with them throughout life.” The Stanner student body agrees that these promposals shouldn’t be disruptive, but having the choice to do it should be in their hands. When high school only lasts for four years, who wouldn’t want to end it on a high note? There is a right and wrong way to do it, and many upperclassmen believe they wouldn’t go too far in their displays. It’s a restriction that has been met with many opinions echoing that of Gavriel, although juniors and seniors certainly do show respect for the ban. However, if promposals are only just a boisterous manner of asking someone to be with you for the prom, why is it banned?

Amidst the flashy fun and excitement of promposals exists a much more serious and critical side of it. Promposals are great when everything ideally works out, and your prom date seriously accepts the offer you’ve given to them. However, what if they don’t really accept the promposal deep down in their heart? Mr. Auer’s email to juniors and seniors explained, “Promposals cause a disruption to the school environment and could possibly embarrass or pressure the receiver into an answer they are not comfortable

with at the time.” Embarrassment and pressure are both legitimate concerns when dealing with promposals, as Mr. Kilkelly shares a story within his years of teaching. In short, one of his students received a promposal and they only said yes to avoid the embarrassment of the situation. Later, in private, the student explained they weren’t really interested. Promposals are equally as likely to create harrowing memories as fantastic ones, and seeing it is contingent on the simple words of “yes” or “no,” taking the risk could end poorly. Promposals are important decisions, and nobody wants to involve peer pressure and discomfort in that decision.

There are two sides to every situation, and promposals are no different. Although promposals can certainly be used to create incredible memories and show someone your affection for them, it can also put pressure on them to make a decision they’re uncomfortable with. Promposals are a high-stakes experience where acceptance and rejection lead to drastically different responses from your peers. It’s important to respect the decision of Molloy’s administration, as nobody wants to be the butt of people’s jokes or experience personal humiliation if they were to be rejected. However, if you truly want to commit to a promposal, there are certainly many displays you can do outside of school grounds! Whatever the case, be prepared for either answer if you are to propose, whether it be acceptance or rejection.

Navigating Junior Year: Balancing Stress and Life

Op-Ed by Bryana Quintero '25

Being a Junior comes with loads of work, stress, overwhelming pressure, no sleep, and did I say stress already? Junior year of high school is a critical year characterized by academic challenges, extracurricular endeavors, and the quest for personal identity. The year is full of highs and lows, with the desire to cherish the passing moments of childhood and make lasting memories competing with the pressure to perform well. Junior year is often associated with excessive stress and a heavy workload for many students. The weight of AP courses, standardized assessments, and college readiness hangs heavy on day-to-day activities. According to Kimberly Ochoa ‘25, even when it comes to selecting senior year classes, “It can be a lot of stress to figure out what classes you think you can challenge yourself with and how many can fit into your schedule.”

Managing numerous responsibilities can be an uphill battle that leaves little time for rest and enjoyment. Students experience intense pressure to perform well academically, which leads to late-night study sessions. This obsession with perfection could cause one to

push themselves to the limit in order to achieve their objectives. Furthermore, the pressure to excel increases with each exam, assignment, and extracurricular activity being examined through the lens of college admissions. Junior year, although chaotic, also promises to be a year filled with treasured memories for some.

Kathleen Greenberg ‘25 states, “Between keeping up with school work, looking at colleges, and getting good grades, junior year can be pretty stressful, but when you surround yourself with good people and great friends, it definitely becomes a lot easier.” When one looks back in time, it’s the little things that really stick out: inside jokes with friends, on-field or stage triumphs, and peaceful times of reflection amid the mayhem. One’s third year of high school could be an emotional rollercoaster, full of happiness, successes and disappointments. But junior year can be one of development, resiliency, and self-discovery.

Junior year is an opportunity to fully embrace your genuine interests and hobbies, whether they involve helping in the community, joining a new group, or

trying out for theater productions. The burden of junior year starts to fade as the months go by and the school year goes on, and could be replaced by a feeling of gratification.

Lastly, thinking about college applications is most important in junior year, and help from college counselors is invaluable. Furthermore, Molloy has the most dedicated college guidance counselors who provide personal assistance, helping students navigate the difficulties of selecting courses, getting involved in extracurricular activities, passing standardized exams, and more. Counselors offer vital guidance and resources for everything from identifying potential colleges to producing effective applications. The three Molloy college guidance counselors—Mr. Esagro, Ms. McCaughey, and Br. Brogan ‘63—truly empower students to make informed decisions and highlight their best attributes to prospective colleges. With the skills and tools needed to succeed in their academic and professional endeavors, the junior class will be well equipped to begin on their path toward college.

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Senior Disney Trip: A Molloy Tradition



by Allison Chmil '27

From December 6th to December 10th 2023, the seniors of Archbishop Molloy High School had the opportunity to go to Walt Disney World in Orlando, Florida! Although the trip often takes place in the spring, this year it took place during the winter season due to the many scheduled school holidays this spring. The trip took place over the long weekend with built-in days off that included Veteran's Day and the Feast of the Immaculate Conception.

Stanners stayed at Port Orleans Riverside, and visited all four Disney parks, some having once in a lifetime experiences. Caroline Rozmus '24 shared, "It was very fun to connect with my classmates and let go of the stress of school and college for a couple of days. It was my first time ever going to Disney, and I felt as if the school did a really good job planning and getting us where we needed to be." Mr. Auer, one of the coordinators of the trip, shared his thoughts on the behind the scenes of the senior experience. "Running the trip is both exhausting and exciting. Much work is put into the prep work before the trip, including collecting the funds, arranging the schedule, getting rooms set up, and getting the students to turn in items on time. The exciting part is the actual trip. The students have such a

memorable, magical time, so that makes it worth all the effort beforehand."

Molloy's senior trip this year was certainly a memorable one. Kaitlyn Nestor '24 said, "I absolutely loved it and I had a great time. There was never a moment when we weren't doing anything. It was very well planned out and we were given a lot of freedom, which I think kids really enjoyed because we could really just spend time with friends. The teachers and faculty that go are all such nice people and they loved hanging out with us and having fun with us." Students were allowed to walk around the parks, go on thrilling roller coasters, and be filled with adrenaline! According to multiple students, they went to all the countries in Epcot, and most tried to "eat as much as they could to experience the magic." Students also attended many shows and visited many shops around the park.

The senior trip to Disney World would never have been possible without the help of Molloy's Administration, faculty and staff chaperones, and of course the outstanding seniors of Molloy. Thank you to everyone who made this trip successful, safe, and enjoyable for the seniors!



The Benefits & Struggles of Being an Athlete at Molloy

by Francesca DeSantis '25

For many students, being an athlete is a significant part of their four years of high school. At Molloy, there are hundreds of student athletes who are members of many different sports, as well as clubs and other activities, and everyone has their own way of juggling their personal commitments.

Freshman Bridget Gayron '27 is a member of the girls JV soccer team, girls JV basketball team, and is hoping to play lacrosse in the spring. She is also a part of G.E.R.L.L Club and Irish Club. Bridget says, "going into my freshman year I didn't have many friends, so I was nervous going into the school year not knowing anyone. In August, I tried out for soccer and I made many friends on the team. I played soccer and basketball my whole life, and knew I wanted to continue playing for Molloy." Bridget also says, "Being a student athlete is something I really enjoy; it fulfills who I am as a person, and if you have an opportunity

to join a team or club at Molloy, take it because it will make your experience here a great one." Sophomore Erin Muncan '26 is the goalie for the girls JV soccer team, along with being an attacker on the girls JV lacrosse team, and manager of the girls basketball team. She states, "I like being a part of all different sports teams, because it helps me get to know my teammates better, and it's where most of my friendships started."

Junior Brendan Twomey '25 is a swimmer and will be a lacrosse player on Molloy's first boys lacrosse team. Brendan is also a part of Campus Ministry, Irish Club, Intramurals, the Stanner Newspaper, and Sports Management Club. Brendan shares that "being a part of all these things is a great way to meet new people and especially people you wouldn't usually talk to." He also says, "Sports Management Club is one of my favorite clubs, because I enjoy making posts about the girls and boys swim team. It was one of my first clubs at

Molloy." However, Brendan understands that there are many struggles that come along with being a student athlete and balancing multiple clubs. "My schedule gets busy at times, and most days I have to leave meetings early to go to another one or to go swimming. When things overlap all the time it's hard to be committed to so many things." Although it's difficult, Brendan still gives his full effort to everything he does, just as most of our other student athletes do as well.

Being involved in sports and clubs at Molloy can be a super beneficial experience; it is something all faculty, coaches, and other athletes recommend. Time management, however, is key for balancing sports, clubs, and school work. At the end of the day, all of Molloy's teams and activities make us well-rounded, fulfilled students, making the extra work worth it in the long run!

The Winter Sports Breakdown

by Anya Satyanarayana '27 & Marissa Roca '24 | Photos: Sports Management Club

Winter is a great time to stay indoors with a nice cup of hot chocolate, a fuzzy blanket, and watching the Minnesota dance team at the UDA College Dance Championships for the tenth time. However, when you're a Stanner, winter is likely the time for following more amazing sports! Molloy athletics continues to make a positive impact on the school's image. As the middle season of sports at Molloy, winter carries the energy and spirit from the fall over into the spring.

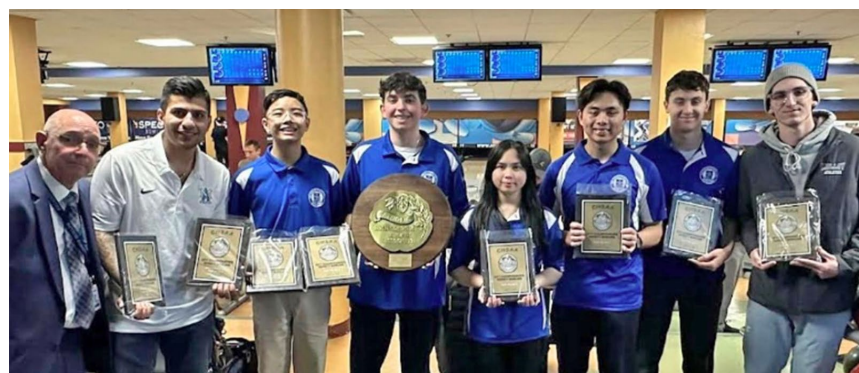
To start off strong, the girls varsity swim team won the Brooklyn Queens Championship against Xaverian with a final score of 104-66. Highlighted athletes include Grace Gilroy '24 and Izzy Flores '24, who led the extremely talented team to a much deserved win! They later went on to defeat Notre Dame Academy and secure the City Championship, with a score of 103-67. The girls held on to an undefeated season, making Molloy proud. Senior swimmer Carolina Rodríguez '24 commented on the season as a whole. She shared, "The team going undefeated this year, especially with everything going on with Coach Heather was extremely special for us. The bond this team has with each other and with our coaches is something I think is rare, so to have that present within our team was something to cherish." The boys varsity team also has performed well, with key victories against Iona, Spellman, and McClancy. They were able to place a respectable third at the CHSAA Novice Championships. Overall, Molloy's swimmers have put up an amazing season to contribute to their already talented history!

Basketball is one of Molloy's flagship sports, holding multiple accreditations for college and professional stars, as well as very entertaining Friday Night Triple Headers. A shining team at the moment is the girls JV squad, who has been showing results and bringing back some wins! Players such as Sarah Rosemond '26, Diem Nenadich '27, and Riley Morgan '27 have led the team to multiple victories over schools such as Scanlan and McClancy. The varsity girls team has also been

showing up, with vibrant games in the Rose Hill Classic. Boys teams have continued to show up for their school, making strong appearances against St. Mary's and Holy Cross in recent triple headers. The varsity boys squad has represented Molloy in tournaments on the local level, as well as in different states. They were able to put up wins in both the Connecticut Classic and the Kruell Classic, which took place in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. As always, Molloy's basketball program continues to shine and bring up school spirit.

Molloy's latest addition to the athletics family is Hockey, and it has been making an impact. As a combined team with Holy Cross High School, the team has taken victories over other high schools, including St. Edmund's and St. Mary's/John the Baptist, and has shown some strength on the ice, competing at the World Ice Arena in Flushing, Queens. As a revival from years past, this new team is constantly growing in popularity and strength.

One sport you can always count on hearing about is track and field! The team has been competing throughout the winter at indoor facilities including the Armory and Ocean Breeze Athletic Complex, both in Staten Island, NY. The girls team pulled out with the win at the Brooklyn/Queens and NYC CHSAA Sectional Championships. They finished over St. Joe's by the Sea 46 to 44, and they also outscored St. Francis Prep and The Mary Louis Academy. Standout athletes include Camille Munoz '25 who won in the 55m hurdles



Varsity Bowling: 2023-24 City Champions!



and High Jump, Caroline Rozmus '24 who took first in the Pole Vault, and Saige Swift '25 who was not only the champion for the Triple Jump, but also voted the Brooklyn/Queens Outstanding Field Performer.

As the winter comes to a close and the spring rolls in, now's the time to consider joining a sport! With the new boys lacrosse program starting, and the other already distinguished and decorated teams at Molloy, there is something for all that want to meet new friends and stay in shape. In the words of varsity swimmer Carolina Rodríguez, "If you are considering joining a sport, try out. You never know what can come out of it and it is an easy way to make friends." Congratulations to all of the amazing athletes that worked hard and pulled through this winter season!

2024 Stanner Games Another Huge Success!

by Elizabeth Canty '26 | Photos by Kristen Mussalli '25



Molloy's track and field team kicked off the new year with the annual Stanner Games. Stanner Games was hosted by Molloy at The Armory in Manhattan on January 14, 2024, and was a stellar representation of the Stanner Spirit. Mr. AJ Power '84, the girls track coach and organizer of the meet, remarked, "Stanner track alumni volunteers from the 1960s through 2023 combine with present faculty, students, and our coaching staff to run one of the best meets in the country. Our officials travel from as far south as Florida and north as Boston to give back to the sport and team they love." A whopping 127 teams from several states participated in over 50 events!

Camille Munoz '25, a top performer, said, "The meet was one of the most memorable meets for me so far this year. I exceeded the expectations I came in with and it was amazing to have the support of not only current teammates but also past teammates and alumni. This meet is a great opportunity for alumni and parents to come together to support the tradition of hosting Stanner Games." Cami is currently a junior,

a nationally ranked multi-event athlete, and holds numerous school records including in the Pentathlon.

Eva Gonzalez '24, another prominent member of Molloy's track team commented, "I owe my progress so far to my coach and teammates. I thank them for their support, their friendship, and their dedication to the sport alongside me as well. I believe it's important to remember the value of every single moment, as there is no true success without struggle." Eva will be graduating this year, and is beloved by the team. She is a constant inspiration to her peers and also younger student-athletes.

Sophomore Claudia Whitmore '26 noted, "As soon as I boarded the bus I was filled with Molloy family spirit. So many families, friends, and alumni gathered together in the morning to ride over to the meet with us. It was interesting and fun to hear the alumni talk about their experiences at Molloy many years ago." Claudia has been an award-winning sprinter on the track team since Freshman year, and has made incredible progress throughout the indoor and Cross Country season.

Athletics have always been a hallmark of Molloy, but track and field has been among the most historically significant of all the school's many sports, as track and field athletes have consistently won accolades for our school. The track team has continued to demonstrate its dominance, particularly girls track, as on January 27th, Molloy's girls won both the Brooklyn/Queens and New York City CHSAA Sectional Championships!

Stanner Games was a beautiful representation of our community's dedication to Molloy, as it united faculty, alumni, and students to help with the events and show collective support. Although it is a significant commitment, track and field offers an amazing opportunity to showcase your abilities, develop your discipline, and foster a sense of community and family that is unique. Molloy's team is elite, but it always has a place for new members. The track team is a huge part of Stanner Life and Molloy's identity, and a perfect demonstration of our school's time-honored motto: *Not for school, but for life!*