

## Jumping Juliette Flies Over High Jump Record

by Gabriella Savino '24, Editor-In-Chief

The gym erupted with cheers as Juliette Locurto '27 soared over the high jump bar, making history with the highest jump by a female ever recorded on Freshman Field Day! A beloved Molloy tradition, Freshman Field Day has been held annually for decades. Divided by homeroom, freshmen compete in athletic competitions such as the soccer shootout, a 100 meter dash, and a fan favorite – the high jump. The previous record, which was 4 feet 6 inches, was set by the Class of 2024. Now it was time for a new record to be set.

“I had gone to a few high jump practices before Field Day and I thought it would be fun,” Juliette explained as her reason for signing up for this event. The gym was packed wall-to-wall with her fellow freshman classmates, sophomore volunteers, and faculty spectators cheering her on. She recalls the moments leading up to the first jump. “I was nervous because there were a lot of people in the gym and I didn’t want to mess up.” However, as she talked to the other competitors, she realized that the event was all for fun. With her nerves calmed she was ready to compete.

After clearing the previous record line of 4 feet 6 inches, Juliette knew she could clear another inch or two. With encouragement not just from her friends, but from her whole grade, Juliette cleared 4’7” and then 4’8” with ease. The crowd of excited spectators was on their feet waiting for the next jump. Juliette explained that the crowd provided her with encouragement and motivation to clear the bar. In one swift motion, she cleared the 4’9” mark, trouncing the



Above: Juliette Locurto’s final jump of Freshman Field Day 2023, which pushed the new FFD Girls High Jump record to 4 feet 9 inches! Inset: Juliette with her Freshman Field Day 1st Place medal. Photos by Mr. Sommo.

previous record by three inches. “After I beat the record the gym was going crazy. Not only were all the freshmen excited, but the sophomores that were helping were too!” Juliette details.

Mr. Kelly, co-director of Freshmen Field Day, stated that the upliftment and excitement is why they do it every year. He adds, “It’s why we put all the work in ahead of time. All we can do is provide the opportunity for magical moments to happen, and a

lot of times they do.” He explained that while Field Day is great to highlight individuals’ different talents and abilities, the ultimate goal is to “have the freshman class experience something together.” He continues, “When we experience something together, especially something so special, that’s what creates community.”

A community was created behind Juliette that day. Her incredible athleticism and determination allowed her to make her mark and become part of Molloy history.

## Molloy Celebrates Hispanic Heritage

by Bryana Quintero '25



The Hallway Flag Parade. Photo by Mr. Sommo.

September 15th through October 15th is Hispanic Heritage Month, a celebration honoring Hispanic history, culture, and achievements. The Spanish Club embraces all of the Latinx countries, as the club strives to empower Latino students at Molloy and celebrate Hispanic leaders.

In an effort to celebrate and infuse Molloy with a Latin flavor, the Spanish Club organized two significant events this year during Hispanic History Month. A highlight of the festivities was the third-floor Parade,

featuring Spanish tunes such as bachata! Everyone who walked in the parade had a great time and brought flags to show their support for and represent their countries. The second main event was the Hispanic Heritage Month party, which really brought the students together with its music, piñata, and abundance of Spanish food, including flan and empanadas.

The students who attended these events were able to truly embrace and represent Latino culture. “It was really fun, and I’m glad I attended both events,”

says Kimberly Ochoa '25. Ryan Ladd '25 states, “I think the Spanish Club has done a lot to represent Hispanic Heritage Month.” Additionally, speaking on representing Hispanic culture, Spanish Club President Joseph Castaño '24 states, “This year I wanted to really hit the ground running with the Spanish Club and Hispanic Heritage Month. We had a variety of events like the brand new Trivia Thursdays, our usual parade, and the busiest party we’ve ever had. However, despite these events, the school could always do more to represent Hispanic students and appreciate Hispanic Heritage Month more. Next year, I hope that these events are just a part of the school’s effort in appreciating these cultures.” In the future, hosting a panel of Latino people who are willing to participate in a Q&A session and talk about careers and culture could also encourage more involvement from the rest of the school.

Molloy’s celebration of Hispanic Heritage was truly remarkable. Without the great assistance of Mr. Little, the Spanish Club’s moderator, and Joseph Castaño '24, the club’s president, none of these awesome events would have been possible. We also want to express our gratitude to the students who made Hispanic Heritage Month a joyous occasion!

Hispanic Heritage Month, which honors all the Hispanic people who have greatly influenced this country, will always be a crucial celebration at Molloy!



# New Year, New PSAT? Annual Test Goes Digital

by Amy Vu ‘25

As the Class of 2024 starts to submit their college applications, the Class of 2025 starts the year that they were told was the most important year of their high school career. While these juniors were already working to make sure their first quarter grades appeal to them, they had to take the Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test (PSAT) this October. In taking this recent PSAT, juniors also took the National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (NMQST) which, if they qualify, could lead to them receiving money for college. However, there were some changes to the PSAT this year, the biggest being that it was completely online. This new online PSAT was also adaptive. This meant that each section of questions depended on how well you did on the previous section, changing the test from differently timed sections with different amounts of questions to equal-length, separately timed modules. For the juniors this year, this was a big change considering they were able to take a physical copy of the PSAT as sophs.

Surprisingly, many juniors found themselves in favor of taking the PSAT online. Kimberly Ochoa ‘25 states, “The instructions for the PSAT were easy enough to follow, which made the whole test-taking process pretty straightforward,” continuing, “being able to see the time left for each section made me concentrate more and helped me manage my time on each question a lot better than the paper PSAT.” Many other juniors find themselves agreeing with Kimberly for numerous reasons, some being that they preferred clicking on buttons compared to flipping back and forth between pages, they preferred the overall format of the online PSAT, and that they appreciated that they were able to keep track of unanswered questions or questions that

they had second thoughts on. Some juniors specifically preferred how the passages for the reading and writing sections were shorter and preferred the style of the questions given on the test.

While students did notice the pros of taking the PSAT online, many students were against the new adaptive way the PSAT was given. Ryan Ladd ‘25 in particular did not prefer the new adaptive test, stating, “I do not see how the PSAT can remain a standardized, fair test when questions are harder/easier for different people.” Many juniors were also curious as to how this adaptive test structure affected what college would see as a good score. Other juniors were more concerned about how they were going to be able to prepare for the PSAT now since the adaptive questions could give one student multiple questions about a specific topic and none about a different topic in comparison to the physical PSAT, where each section was more or less evenly divided. Some students also thought that it wasn’t fair that questions they might have guessed wrong on would determine their other set of questions, compared to all questions being predetermined on a physical test. This new PSAT did not only affect juniors, but it also affected the Administration, whose concerns were raised due to this digital test taking format, and sophomores, who didn’t have to take the PSAT.

With the new online PSAT, many concerns were raised in the eyes of the Administration. Mrs. Cuomo, an Assistant Principal at Molloy, states, “Administratively, we were concerned about the possibility that there would be some technical problems when giving an online exam to over 370 students at the same time.” However, due to the completion of the Digital Readiness Check, the

completion of the necessary proctoring duties done by the faculty, Molloy’s IT infrastructure, the guidance of the IT Department, and the cooperation of the junior grade as a whole, Mrs. Cuomo feels that Molloy “fared better than several other schools,” applauding us for “completing the exam on the scheduled day with not even one significant problem.”

Another change with the PSAT this year was that it was not offered to sophomores. Dana Seo ‘26 feels as if sophomores should have been given a chance to take the PSAT this year even though they might not understand some aspects of the test. She feels that if the sophomores took the PSAT it would have been “better for them to practice more and familiarize themselves with the test earlier on.” Some sophomores appreciated not having to take the PSAT just yet. Dana states that, “it relieves some stress off their shoulders since they didn’t have to take a standardized test.” Many sophomores agree with Dana’s opinion that taking the PSAT this year would have helped them prepare for the PSAT and NMQST next year.

While many people were weary of the new digital PSAT, it is safe to say that the new format and style of this digital test was handled well by the students it was proctored to. The junior class was able to work and adjust to the pros and cons of an adaptive, digital test, making the first digital standardized test proctored at Molloy a success. While the PSAT was taken online, it is unknown whether or not other tests, like the AP exams, will be given online. However, administrators are being “cautiously optimistic” about administering AP exams digitally if it ever occurs in the future.

# Molloy Community Welcomes New Teachers

by Enda Connolly ‘27 and Sebastian Castillo ‘27



Ms. Lee



Mr. Dombrowski



Mr. Reed



Mr. Duplessis

Alongside the start of the new school year, Molloy has gained four new teachers: Ms. Lee, Mr. Dombrowski, Mr. Reed, and Mr. Duplessis. Ms. Lee joined the Math Department, teaching Algebra 1 and 2 this year. Mr. Dombrowski joined the Science Department, teaching Earth Science and Conceptual Physics, and he also became a Track and Field coach. Mr. Reed joined the Religion Department, teaching religion to freshmen, sophomores, and juniors. Mr. Duplessis joined the Art Department, teaching sophomores, juniors, and seniors this year.

We asked these new teachers some questions to get to know them better...

## How has your Molloy experience been so far?

A new member of the community, Ms. Lee said her experience so far has been “very positive,” and that “there is a positive vibe in the community here.”

Mr. Dombrowski was part of Molloy’s Class of 2007 and his father worked at Molloy for almost 40 years, so Molloy has always been intertwined with his life. He described his teaching experience so far as “wonderful,” and that it has been “a real blessing to come back.”

Mr. Reed has had a brief history with Molloy in the

past, working as a substitute for one semester during the 2016-17 school year. He said that his time so far, both then and now, has been a “wonderful experience,” and that the students and faculty have been very nice, welcoming, and friendly.

As another new member of the community, Mr. Duplessis said that his teaching experience so far has been “excellent,” and that his students are great, having not run into any issues.

## What do you think of Molloy’s motto, “Not for school, but for life?”

Ms. Lee said she believes that the things you learn here will stick with you for the rest of your life, and that Molloy teaches more than just academics; it teaches important life lessons.

Mr. Dombrowski said that it was one of the most important things ever told to him. The relationships he has made and the lessons he has learned here at Molloy have shaped him into the man he is today.

Mr. Reed said that Molloy teaches us not to just study for tests, but to gain wisdom and learn lessons that are important for the rest of our lives.

Mr. Duplessis said that he believes the motto is very

valuable, and that your high school experience can affect your life, even after graduating.

## Any clubs or sports you currently supervise or would want to?

Ms. Lee currently isn’t a part of any clubs, although she would be interested in being part of the Math Club and Math Team, and would even be interested in creating a Board Games Club.

Mr. Dombrowski is one of the Track and Field coaches, wanting to focus on athletics for the moment.

Mr. Reed helps coach the Speech and Debate team, and he is interested in science-fiction, books, and reading, so he would be interested in being a part of clubs that have to do with his interests!

Mr. Duplessis currently is the moderator for the Art Club, and said that is currently enough for him.

The new teachers this year are great people, we welcome them with open arms! We look forward to their hopefully long and fruitful career here at Molloy, and we wish them the best. “Non scholae sed vitae!”



# Introducing New Clubs at Molloy

by Elizabeth Canty '26 and Andrew Ariano '25. Photos by Krystal Valentin '25.

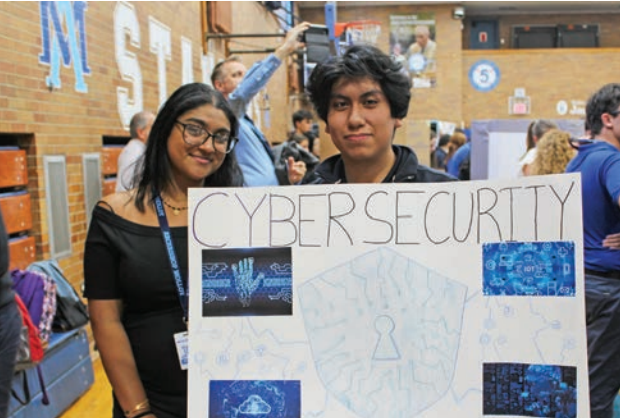


Quiz Bowl at the Activities Fair.

Clubs at Molloy give students an opportunity to connect with peers and teachers while enjoying fun activities after school. Clubs have been shown to be beneficial both socially and mentally, allowing students to take a respite from the struggles of the daily workload. Molloy is unique from other schools, because of its incredibly wide variety of clubs and activities to participate in, with this year being no exception. This year, Molloy welcomes multiple new clubs to its roster, with the following just being a few examples of what is now offered at the school.

## Quiz Bowl

Started this year by junior Josh Jarrett '25 and overseen by Dr. Flynn, Quiz Bowl is a game in which two teams compete to answer trivia questions as fast as possible, with competitions occurring on a national scale. Inspired over the summer by stories of other schools with national Quiz Bowl teams, Josh chose to help bring his love of trivia to Molloy, with intentions of eventually taking the team to great heights. “I saw other schools having Quiz Bowl competitions. I knew



Cybersecurity Club at the Activities Fair.

our school could do really well,” says Josh. Starting out with a small yet passionate group of students, the club meets every two weeks, with hopes to expand in the future. Josh recommends anyone interested should join the club, “because no matter what you have good knowledge in, it’ll be useful in Quiz Bowl.”

## Bible Study Club

Another new addition is the Bible Study Club, led by juniors Tiffany Esquen '25 and Noah Spencer '25, and moderated by Ms. Jelcic. This club is rooted in Molloy’s Catholic Marist tradition, and is devoted to the education and exploration of Marist values. However, Bible Study is not just about religion. Important historical, cultural, and political significance can be found within the Bible, and so it remains extremely relevant even today. The club explores these topics through readings and reflections. During the meetings, the club listens to music, selects readings, and engages in other activities based on the theme of the meeting. Contact Tiffany, Noah, or Ms. Jelcic for more info.



Bible Study Club at the Activities Fair.

## Cybersecurity Club

The Cybersecurity Club, led by Ms. Sookhai, offers education in the development of computer science and online safety, while encouraging students to consider cybersecurity as a career path. The club meets biweekly, and hopes to grow and evolve as the year goes on. Although the club is still determining its student leaders, the cybersecurity club has many exciting activities planned for the new calendar year. Contact Ms. Sookhai for more info.

## Why Join New Clubs?

Clubs and afterschool activities are a great way to get involved at school and enrich your overall experience. You may make new friends, learn new things, and become better prepared for college. Ms. Murdocca, Molloy’s Activities Director, says, “It is important for students to diversify their portfolio for college, so if you haven’t joined a club yet, you should check out the list and see what you can join to round out your education, or just have some fun.”

# Next Stanner-A-Thon: Spring 2024! Why Is It Being Moved?

by Breana Khan '26 and Rinat Moshel '26



2019 Walk-A-Thon

Curious about the remarkable tradition where Molloy students rally together for an impactful cause? Let’s unveil the Stanner-A-Thon! This tradition is an event where students are able to come together as a community to support their school. It’s a spirited walkathon, with special perks for seniors, that promotes unity and school spirit at Molloy. The Stanner-A-Thon is an important fundraising event that rallies support for a multitude of impactful causes. In past years, it has enabled transformative initiatives such as installing air conditioning in every classroom, acquiring new school buses, enhancing cafeteria facilities, and renovating both gymnasiums, science labs, and the Art Studio. The Stanner-A-Thon is very unique in many ways – starting with its name. Ms. Murdocca, the organizer of this event, says, “We changed the name to Stanner-A-Thon to be more representative of the student involvement.”

This year the tradition has changed. Our cherished annual Stanner-A-Thon, typically held in the fall, has been rescheduled to the spring season. Historically, the Stanner-A-Thon has been on the last Friday of October for nearly 30 years, but it was due for a fresh new start. According to Ms. Murdocca, the exact date has not been set – but it will be moved to sometime during Spirit Week, which is in April 2024. The decision to move the Stanner-A-Thon to the spring was made due to the busy nature of September and October, as well as the unpredictable weather during that time.



2021 Stanner-A-Thon

When asked if she feels the new date will be more beneficial for students and faculty, Ms. Murdocca replied, “Yes. It gives us more time to prepare, it gives students more time to go out and fundraise, and the weather is nicer at the end of April.” Since student involvement is essential for the Stanner-A-Thon, the new date should allow for an increased level of “Stanner Spirit” with Spirit Week now intertwined with it.

When asked if moving the event was a good decision, Brandon Jurski '26 replied, “Yes. I think it was a really beneficial decision to change the date because one of my favorite memories from it is running with my track team, but I remember it being so cold [in October] that it was hard to enjoy at times. We all are looking forward to running on the track field this year, particularly as the sun shines upon us.”

There’s no doubt that many memories were made during the past Stanner-A-Thon’s, but what exactly made them so memorable? Renee-Elizabeth Brown '26 was asked about her Stanner-A-Thon highlights. She shared, “My highlight was talking to my friends and having fun while walking around and participating in fun activities.” The walk around the school, instead of a normal day in class, creates an enjoyable environment we hope carries over to future Stanner-A-Thons.

Although the Stanner-A-Thon is mostly thought of as students walking for a good cause, there are other activities that take place in addition to the walking.



2022 Stanner-A-Thon

A student who is definitely looking forward to other activities during the Stanner-A-Thon is Ryan Ladd '25. She is looking forward to the I AM Green clean up. According to Ryan, “It’s always fun to walk around the neighborhood and clean up trash instead of just walking for so long. It feels much more fulfilling for me at least.” With the nicer weather, it would most likely be easier and more enjoyable to clean up the neighborhood around Molloy.

Beyond I AM Green, there are even more activities during the Stanner-A-Thon that go on, many of which are available to seniors. When asked if he’s looking forward to alternate Stanner-A-Thon activities, Joseph Castaño '24 replied, “Yes! I was always a bit jealous of the seniors since they got to do other activities during the Stanner-A-Thon while everyone else just had to walk.” Some activities available for seniors include the Game-a-Thon, Zumba, Video Game Tournament, Basketball Tournament, Art-A-Thon, Dodgeball, Trivia Contest, and the World Trade Center Walk. Joe also said he’s most certainly looking forward to doing the Video Game Tournament or Dodgeball. All activities will be announced sometime in the coming weeks.

The Stanner-A-Thon is making history with a new date being introduced. This is a huge plus for us Stanner, students and faculty alike. As we walk our way to the Stanner-A-Thon, make sure to mark your calendars for April 2024. Stanner-A-Thon, here we come!



# Mr. Beaudet’s Insight Into Molloy’s 24 Hour Run for Two Causes

by Ramon Mejia ‘25

Earlier this fall, Mr. Beaudet endured running the track on Stanner Field for 24 hours straight. An astounding \$17,500 has been raised for both the Kaitlyn Mendoza Fund and Karina Vetrano Memorial Scholarship thanks to major contributions by the Stanner community at large. Many different groups of people ran with Mr. Beaudet in support of his efforts, from Kaitlyn’s and Karina’s families, to a plethora of students, faculty members, and alumni. While many know of the feat that Mr. Beaudet accomplished between September 22nd and September 23rd, how does Mr. Beaudet feel about his accomplishment?

Before that, however, one must wonder how the event managed to be sanctioned to begin with. As a key contributor to raising funds for the aforementioned Kaitlyn and Karina scholarships, Mr. Beaudet provides insight to the process, and its many moving parts. “The idea was offered to Dr. Penikas, and he essentially greenlit it,” he says. The Stanner Alumni Center oversaw preparations for the event and made sure that everything went according to plan. It was a collective effort made by the entire community that allowed this event to take place. The importance of the event was especially made known to the Stanner student body when it was announced that Mr. Beaudet would be undergoing a 24 hour run to raise funds for these two significant scholarships, with Dr. Penikas urging Stanners to join him for the run. Many showed up for the event, but how did Mr. Beaudet power through it?

The act of running for 24 hours straight, including partially in the rain, sounds like an impossible task, but Mr. Beaudet managed to overcome the physical and mental stresses! The source of his vital spirit came from many places, but one notable motivator for him was the support from various people who ran with him. “I was never alone,” Mr. Beaudet comments, “I always had someone running with me.” He notes that the various Molloy sports teams, alumni, friends, and family allowed him to continue pushing forward in spite of the hardship. Moreover, supporting the two scholarship funds in honor of Kaitlyn and Karina

gave Mr. Beaudet all the more reason to run. “To me, just the significance and the importance of the event to raise money in honor of both Kaitlyn and Karina gave me a strong purpose,” he explains. Mr. Beaudet certainly had the drive to run all 24 hours. Mr. Beaudet felt it important to highlight Kaitlyn and Karina, and he has an important reason for why the Molloy community should know about them.

Mr. Beaudet believes that the Stanner community should know who Kaitlyn and Karina are, as they encompass the Marist values Molloy attempts to instill in its community. “I think that they were two very strong people,” Mr. Beaudet says. “Kaitlyn was an amazing student, athlete, and person. She embodied everything Molloy represents. Although I never met Karina, I know she was very similar.” He’s grateful that he was personally involved in running for them and increasing awareness of both their lives and that of runner safety in honor of Karina and pediatric cancer in honor of Kaitlyn. Mr. Beaudet even expresses a willingness to continue participating in more events that raise awareness for these scholarships. “I definitely want to continue raising money for the scholarship funds,” he states, “but I don’t know if it’d be another 24 hour run. Maybe it’d be a different run that’s a little bit shorter.” The generous proposition is there along with his “runner’s vitality.” Should another event like this be held at Molloy, Stanners should certainly come and support the cause!

Mr. Beaudet expressed immense gratitude and joy in the fact that he managed to run with so many different people in support of great causes. The money raised by the Stanner community will go to good use in funding



The run kicked off at 3:00pm Friday. Photo by Mr. Sommo.



End of the run at 3:00pm Saturday. Photo by Ms. Basone.

the education of incoming Molloy students. Stanners should consider replicating Mr. Beaudet’s actions; make a difference by donating to the Kaitlyn Mendoza Fund and Karina Vetrano Memorial Scholarship or by potentially running with him in the future!

## What Is Molloy’s “Pink Day”?...And No, It’s Not About Mean Girls!

by Jules Nohar ‘24



On Friday, October 27, 2023, Molloy celebrated Pink Day to raise awareness for breast cancer during Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Hosted by Ms. Liz Murdocca and the Spirit Leaders, GERLL Club, and Social Justice Club, Pink Day saw Stanners wear a pink accessory with their uniform, whether that’s bright pink socks, pink earrings, or pink shoes to remember and pray for more awareness as to what breast cancer is while connecting resources to others. Students and faculty advocated for those that are dealing with breast cancer and, during lunch, Stanners donated to the Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center to help cure, prevent, diagnose, and treat breast cancer. Stanners who donated received the universal pink ribbon to wear and show our support for women and raising awareness in the hopes of a brighter future.

Together, with our uniforms on for extra solidarity as a community, Molloy stands united to spread the powerful message that no one is alone in their battle and we show our support for this important cause. Be sure to show any loved ones fighting this battle that you care about them and are there for them. *The Stanner* thanks everyone who supported us this year in donating for further education on breast cancer and fighting for a cure!

## First Open Mic Of Many In The 2023-24 School Year

by Sandra Goncalves ‘27 and Deborah Murphy ‘26

Excited Stanners filled every seat in the Ralph DeChiaro theater for this year’s first Open Mic. Open Mic is an afterschool show arranged by Mr. Gambino where students and faculty members get to showcase their talents. The lively MC’s, Anna Lampman ‘24 and Michael O’Neill ‘25, introduced each performer, starting with two juniors: Casper Villapaz ‘25 and Camila Cabrales ‘25. They performed a song called “The Perfect Pair” by Beabadoobee, and in this duo, Camila played the guitar while Casper sang. The second act was one of Molloy’s faculty members, Mr. Stolze, playing the guitar and singing. Following Mr. Stolze was an act by Katherine Sit ‘26 who sang “All Too Well” by

Taylor Swift, leaving the crowd clapping and cheering for her. Next up was freshman Haile Johnson ‘27 who sang “Love Like You” by Steven Universe.

To start off the Halloween season, Juneaux Fabello ‘27 sang “Baby You’re A Haunted House” by Gerard Way, while playing the electric guitar with Aaliyah Manniram ‘27. After that was Isabella Sanchez ‘26 who sang “Summertime Sadness” by Lana Del Ray. The crowd sang along during her performance, swaying the flashlights on their phones. Next was the organizer himself, Mr. Gambino, who got the audience to clap along with his song, “Clap Clap Your Hands.” Casper Villapaz sang again, finalizing the open mic with a

relaxing “The Way Things Go” by Beabadoobee.

One of the freshman performers, Juneaux Fabello, spoke on how she felt while performing for the first time at the Open Mic. Juneaux said, “Performing here for the first time was eye opening for me because I didn’t expect people to be hyped and sing along to the song. The mood and energy of the audience was so energetic and just gave off good vibes. When I got on the stage I was less nervous and I just flew through the song. I would definitely perform at Open Mic again.” Open Mic is a fun experience to witness your classmates and faculty members perform; be sure not to miss the next one at the end of November!



# Campus Ministry: Fall 2023 Updates + New Instagram!

by Sydney Pullo '26

Molloy provides a Marist education filled with service opportunities, retreats, and more. Our Campus Ministers, Ms. Wilson, Mr. Corrado, and Ms. Haslbauer, are to thank for all the opportunities we have to celebrate being Marist. Ms. Haslbauer recently joined the team this year and is in charge of service. She is thrilled to be a part of the team and help with the Marist mission. Be sure to check emails and announcements from her to know how you can serve the community!

Some new opportunities this year include preparing sandwiches for The Harding Ford Vision food pantry in Jamaica, Queens as well as participating in Sofia Morales's '24 "Cards Making Connections" to create holiday cards for children in hospitals and adults in nursing homes. One upcoming service opportunity will be decorating bandanas to donate to an animal shelter in Rockaway. Service opportunities have been expanded to serve many different needs, whether that is hunger, homelessness, ecology, or animal rights. "I'm always looking to find different options for students based on their availability too, so there are a number of in-person and virtual opportunities," said Ms. Haslbauer. Campus Ministry is also running a food drive for Thanksgiving, and the toy drive in December.

For the first time in Molloy history, a one-day sophomore retreat was held in school. The retreat focused on the Marist Pillars students learned previously as freshmen, and also discussed the Marks of a Marist student. Campus Ministry believes this initiative to be a great success. Creating a new retreat for an entire grade was a lot of work, but our Campus Ministers

and student leaders are fantastic, hard working, and compassionate, and gladly put in the work to create an amazing sophomore retreat. "Organizing the retreat and working with the leadership team of adults and students is a labor of love," said Ms. Wilson. We have our Campus Ministers and student leaders to thank for being true Marist role models.

Make sure to check your emails, announcements, and Campus Ministry's new Instagram account, which you can follow @molloyhs\_campusministry, for updates on service opportunities and more. This new Instagram account is an efficient way to be informed about all Campus Ministry activities and events. Look out for certain themed days, such as "Motivation Mondays." This account is helpful to share in real time about the events, retreats and service opportunities, and events. Lastly – don't forget to log your hours on InnerView!



Volunteers make sandwiches to be donated to members of the Queens community.



Students with donations to The Harding Ford Vision food pantry in Jamaica, Queens.



Meditation exercise during the one-day Sophomore Retreat at Molloy.

## Overcoming High School Obstacles: Stories From Real Stanners

by Ariana Baksh '27 and Seoul Otaba '27

As high schoolers, we are prone to many potential setbacks. Whether it be the transition from a middle schooler to a high school student as a freshman, time management with sports, school-life balancing, and even preparing for our university careers, many things can weigh on us. In this issue of The Stanner, students Freddy Callazo '27, Rinat Moshel '26, Kyleigh Anderson '25, and Ali Askew '24 are representing each grade and answering the following query: "When, if ever, did you face a challenge at Molloy, and how did you surpass it?"

Freddy Collazo '27 is a genuine, caring, and considerate Stanner who is loved by many in the 2027 freshman class. Freddy was deliberating before beginning his first few weeks at Molloy: whether or not he would make as many friends as he did at his previous school; how might academics differ from middle school to high school; whether or not he would be able to fit in. Freddy proclaims, "I never knew how I'd introduce myself to kids I've never met before. I knew I had to remain humble in front of individuals who hadn't known me for a decade. I believe it was pure luck that I met such wonderful people on the way to Freshman Camp." Freddy first became involved in the Molloy community during his time at Freshman Camp in Esopus, which allowed him to form close friendships and made his first days at Molloy more comfortable. Freshmen enter high school frightened of many things, but perhaps, like Freddy, they can try to give everything a chance.

Rinat Moshel '26 is a student that shines behind a podium while storming up vast defenses with her incredible critical thinking skills, or dancing in front of a large crowd for school events, or even just walking through Molloy's hallways. When asked about the biggest impact Molloy has had on her, she shares, "Molloy shows me how to find my full potential

through hard work and time management." It wasn't always easy. As a freshman, Rinat faced challenges such as time management, maintaining her involvement in multiple clubs, and adjusting overall to her new school. She overcame these difficulties by maintaining an organized and efficient schedule as well as prioritizing



Aerial photo by Mr. Gianpaolo Fabiano

which activities were most important to her. As a result, Rinat was able to build on the lessons she learned as a freshman and thrive in a busy and fulfilling personal routine in her sophomore year. Rinat is currently flourishing in school by progressing as an attorney in Mock Trial and continuing her time on the Dance Team. These abilities are difficult to acquire and may take some time to master, but as Rinat put it, "it is difficult walking into school and being stressed all the time...fixing my time management skills was the best decision I made." As a result, if you are flexible with your time, as Rinat was, you will be able to enjoy a stress-free experience at school.

Kyleigh Anderson '25 is a unique and talented Molloy student who gives back to a multitude of areas, whether it's the Step Team she is a part of, or the Stanner community as a whole. With this, Kyleigh encountered

a culture shock as one of her major struggles. During her first few years at Molloy, Kyleigh felt as if her new environment had a lack of representation. She felt uncomfortable with meeting new individuals that didn't share the same cultural experiences, ideas, and beliefs. Within a short period of time, Kyleigh was able

to develop connections with her peers and embrace the setting she was exposed to, rather than letting her differences separate her from her peers. Kyleigh's experience can serve as an example for other students – when faced with possible obstacles like these, we should be open-minded and not let our potential differences get in the way.

Ali Askew '24 is one of the outstanding seniors here at Molloy. During her junior year, Ali was thinking ahead to what she wanted to pursue after graduating from Molloy, but she couldn't decide. She was having difficulty with her social life like many other high schoolers and was unsure of how she could

satisfy others as well as gain popularity. This year, Ali applied to retreats, understanding that making an impact through other students was far more crucial than just making an impact on herself alone. Ali recently led one of her first retreats for the freshman Class of 2027, which was an enormous turning point, because it not only made her feel noticed, but also offered her instant satisfaction in knowing she could accomplish something so impactful. Ali soon became more involved in Campus Ministry and with the Step Team. "Throughout my time at Molloy, I have made a lot of good quality friendships and connections, and I have discovered that when maintaining friendships, I should focus on quality over quantity," Ali says. Ali encourages Molloy students to have an optimistic attitude throughout their high school years.



# One-Day Freshman Retreat Serves as New Retreat Template

by AC Camacho ‘27 and Juneaux Fabello ‘27

On August 31st, between 7:45am to 8:00am, freshmen walked through the front doors on Manton Street. The newly welcomed students walked in and were met with the friendly faces of staff, including Campus Ministry. They walked into the Jack Curran Gym and were escorted to a random group, which was their soon-to-be homeroom classmates. The junior and senior volunteers greeted the freshmen with an icebreaker where they threw around a ball with numbers written on it. Whatever number landed on someone’s thumb, they had to answer a question about themselves that corresponded to that number, like their favorite ice cream flavor, or a Molloy question such as, “Who is the Principal?”

After their greeting, each group sat on the bleachers and endured a wonderful replication of the last supper. Then, each group rotated to different activities, all based on the Five Marist Pillars. The Five Pillars are not the only standard of being a Marist student at Molloy, but the traits of a Marist anywhere in the world. From a guided blindfold obstacle course to show the importance of presence, to students standing on a magic carpet working together to flip it over, the activities really represented the pillars uniquely. This was Molloy’s very first in-school Freshman Retreat.

While this retreat is a new tradition for the Stanner community, the Marist Pillars are a very familiar one. These Pillars are: Presence, Simplicity, Love of Work, Family Spirit, and In The Way of Mary. Each rotated activity demonstrated one of these pillars in their own fun and engaging way.

Before the event even began, different groups of freshmen were asked to bring in certain school supplies, like crayons and notebooks, for less fortunate kids in need. As soon as the students were welcomed

into the school, they were instructed to drop off the supplies in bins next to the front desk. These would be saved for an activity in the cafeteria after the welcome speech. Each group had the chance to organize the supplies, decorate tote bags for them, and fill up the bags with them. No matter what role each freshman took up, they all helped a very good cause, reflecting a true “Stanner Spirit.”



Navigating the obstacle course while blindfolded. Photo by Mr. Sommo.

Not only was the experience charitable, it was also helpful in creating a new sense of presence and love of work. A few groups were shocked and a little confused when they stepped into the Jack Curran Gym. They saw a piece of silver tarp layed on the ground, which they were instructed to step on and to flip over to the other side with everyone on it. Each group had different strategies as to how they were going to accomplish this. For example, some groups stepped to one side of the tarp and folded the corners in the middle. This activity

includes the pillar of Family Spirit since it involves working together and helping each other complete the task at hand despite obstacles that may get in the way.

Another activity that required strategy and cooperation required a jump rope that each member of a group had to pass to the opposite side while it was swinging. It sounds easy enough, but there could be no breaks. If someone couldn’t get through without the rope getting in the way while keeping the swinging continuous, then the entire group had to restart and find a new way to get everybody across. After trials filled with laughter and sharing of ideas, most groups were able to succeed and feel the essence of family spirit.

During lunch, the student leaders picked some students to participate in a special Jeopardy, mainly about Molloy and the Marist Pillars. Those who were picked came down from the bleachers and were put into groups with the other chosen freshmen. Teachers were there to hear the students’ discussions and announce the answer to the host. The host told them if they got it right or wrong. Teams that gave the right answer received a certain amount of points, and whoever got the most points won.

When the players got back into their seats, freshmen got to hear some presentations from the student leaders about their experience about Molloy. They talked about how they relate to how the freshmen might be feeling, but reassured that they will be fine regardless.

After all the excitement of meeting new people, participating in fun activities, and having a great first day of being a Stanner, the freshmen still continue to reminisce about this day. This retreat was a great way to learn what being a Stanner is all about and will prepare freshman students for what is to come and all of what Molloy will offer.

## New And Improved Art Studio! Classroom Gets Needed Upgrade

by Luis Phillips ‘25

The art room on the third floor was renovated during the summer break of 2023. What used to be a dingy, blue-green classroom is now a sleek, shiny white studio. The classroom was last renovated in the 2000s after Molloy hit its 40th anniversary. Despite being reworked only a few years ago, the art teachers felt that it still needed a facelift. Cinder block walls and faded yellow paint have been synonymous with many of Molloy’s classrooms since the late 1950s. Although these small details are often overlooked by a majority of the student body, many see it as an eyesore. When speaking with administrators, many mentioned that these outdated features can reflect poorly in comparison with competing high schools, and that when choosing a school to attend, aesthetics play a key role. Having a bright, open classroom can make students feel awake and ready for class when compared to a dimly lit one.

And it’s not just looks, it’s also functionality. From the leaky windows, all the way to the general layout, the old art room design created several issues. The small closet, paint-stained tables, and broken stools only added to the growing list of recent problems. Additionally, Molloy has been developing its visual arts department for some time now, including design, technology, and theater. After adding an advanced placement course to the art curriculum, many realized that an art room renovation would now be a necessity – and not just for visuals.

Similar to the theater on the first floor, the lack of funding and attention may have hindered students’ ability to learn. Art students would often complain about the supply closet being extremely difficult to navigate due to unlabeled boxes and little light. Others brought up how art projects were typically mixed in with other classes due to the lack of counter space. Despite these complaints being about small annoyances that could easily be overcome, other issues were more serious. Some mentioned how the old tables, lined with plastic, would leave marks on their paper when using graphite to shade. Others described how the stools were uncomfortable, especially when used by taller students, often having to stand to get drawings



The upgraded Art Studio. Photos by Mr. Sommo.

right. Plus, the long and thin tables made working with posters difficult. The lack of art supplies, space, and teaching desks would serve as a hurdle for artists who planned to pursue the subject as a major in college. According to Molloy’s President, Mr. Karsten, the budget was stretched to a whopping one-hundred thousand dollars in hopes to cover all these bases. The room now features new extra-wide tables on wheels, new stools, new supplies, and plenty of storage.

Mr. Degrossa, an art teacher at Molloy for over 20 years, actually designed the new art room himself. In his design, he completely removed the closet, upgrading it to an open countertop and cabinets. The new fluorescent lights and sleek metal chairs were definitely favored over the short wooden stools and tables. The new design also includes new cabinets and charging stations for iPads and art supplies. Mr. DaGrossa stated how he hoped the new Art Studio would serve as an example for the rest of Molloy classrooms and future improvements, that one day the rest of Molloy would be just as sleek and modern.



Although the modern look is preferred by most, when some seniors were asked their opinions, many begged to differ. Some, who asked to remain anonymous, questioned if the room was even finished, suggesting that the studio looked “bland and boring.” Others said it contradicts the typical colorful and messy look of an art studio. Time will tell if the room will be able to create its own sense of “messy” character.

With minimalist and modern architecture making its way through catalogs, and growing in popularity, who knows what the future holds for Molloy?



# Molloy’s Spooktacular Halloween Bash!

by Sofia Crino ‘26 and Isabella Gjeka ‘27. Photos by Tiffany Esquen ‘25.



Hello ghosts, goths, witches, and more! Molloy recently held its annual HALLOWEEN BASH! This year’s Halloween Bash was a thrilling event full of intriguing activities, crazy costumes, and more! The Halloween Bash took place in the Jack Curran Gym on Monday, October 30th and has been a Molloy tradition for several years. Unfortunately, Molloy was unable to hold this event during the pandemic, but according to Ms. Murdocca, the Halloween Bash is now thankfully back in full swing!

The Halloween Bash is always popular among the students here at Molloy, with almost 400 Stanners attending each year. This year about 130 sophomores, over 100 freshmen and about 60 to 70 juniors and seniors each attended the event. To participate in the bash, students had to pay \$10 each and all proceeds went to Marist educators in Venezuela to help them manage the cost of food and supplies.

This year’s Halloween Bash had a variety of activities including a haunted hallway, a cupcake decorating

contest, and a costume contest. Stanners were also able to sing and dance to music played by a DJ. Behind the scenes, more than 30 helpers spent over five hours decorating the gym, the hallway, the cafeteria, and the entrance on Main Street to make the school as frightening as possible. Shoutout to Ms. Murdocca, the Spirit Leaders, Ms. Casillo, and Ms. Belen-Kelly who all helped organize the event and worked to make this year’s bash fun and memorable!

Out of the many activities that take place at the Halloween Bash, the costume contest is always a hit. To add some more excitement into this year’s contest there was a slight change. Typically, in past years each winner of the four classes would receive a prize, but in this year’s costume contest, each winner of the class had to compete for the top spot to be the official “Costume Contest Winner!” This year the winner of the freshman class was Liv the Lorax. The sophomore costume, Santa and his reindeer, was worn by Carmine DeSimone and Sean Del Grosso. The junior winners,

Cristina Aliperti, Nick Seibert, and Mateo Solorzano, who were the iconic Spongebob trio. Last, but not least, the senior winners, Joseph Castaño and Megan Zapanta were Jack and Sally from “The Nightmare Before Christmas.” Ultimately, the final winners of the costume contest who received the large bucket of candy as a prize were the SOPHOMORES! Congratulations to Carmine and Sean for winning the costume contest!

Stanners had a blast at the Halloween Bash this year! Freshman James Mendoza ‘27 who attended the dance stated that it was “very fun and exciting to be able to celebrate with my friends.” Some of the events that he thought were most exciting were the costume contest and the cupcake decorating contest! He attended this dance as a rapper and danced the night away with his friends.

This year’s bash was ultimately a success and a great way to celebrate Halloween with friends. If you’d like to experience this terrifying event, don’t forget to buy your tickets next year!

# Congratulations To The Amazing Stanner Players!

by Shade Murray ‘25 and Giana Misripersaud ‘25. Photos by Krystal Valentin ‘25.

This past weekend, the Stanner Players presented their fall play: *Radium Girls*! The world came to life on stage as the passionate Stanner Players provided insight to a historically significant event in an entertaining way. Director Ms. Winters says, “We are educating students on an event that they might not have known about, marking this as one of the most powerful and moving plays. You’ll definitely get something out of it.”

The show ran for four performances including two shows on November 16th, one show on November 18th, and an afternoon matinee on November 19th. Congrats to the cast and crew! A full show review and spring musical preview is coming in our next issue.



## The Stanner - Volume LXVII - Issue No. 1

**Editor-In-Chief**  
Gabriella Savino ‘24

**Associate Editor**  
Ryan Ladd ‘25

**Co-Moderators**  
Ms. Bianca Basone ‘15  
Communications Coordinator

Mr. Joe Sommo ‘03  
Communications Director

**Publishers**  
Mr. Richard Karsten ‘81  
President

Dr. Darius Penikas, Ed.D.  
Principal



# STANNER SPORTS

by Anya Satyanarayana '27 and Marissa Roca '24

It's November, and that means fall sports are in full swing! From soccer to tennis, many students have been participating in different athletic activities and representing Molloy in many positive ways. Throughout its long history, Molloy athletes have shone with their excellency and prestige, and continue to do so in 2023-24.

To start off, girls soccer has had an amazing season, winning numerous games and producing future collegiate athletes. Their commits include senior Alexa Piotrowski '24, who will play at Adelphi University, and Cait Dorry '24, who will be attending the Catholic University of America. Being a senior in high school sports is a feat all its own, but also stirs up nostalgia and a bittersweet feeling. Alexa Piotrowski shared that, "As a senior, I've been trying to be as relaxed and positive as possible as I play my last few high school games ever. My teammates have made the sport so enjoyable for me and are a large part of the reason I play. My soccer teammates are like a second family to me." JV girls soccer had an incredible season, making it all the way to BQ finals. Similarly, boys soccer has pushed through this year and competed well throughout a

respectable season. The team had two All-League players recognized by the CHSAA, Kai Tisza '24 and Benny Kadribasic '24.

Girls Volleyball is a vibrant sport at Molloy and continues to dominate the court. The teams are coached by Ms. Nicole Nowak. The JV team played hard all the way to BQs, and finished as a finalist. Varsity also had a great overall season, qualifying for the playoffs. The JV team came out victorious in the Scarsdale Tournament, placing first out of many teams! Committed athletes include senior Maria Weigand '24, who will be playing next fall at SUNY New Paltz. Maria also made the CHSAA All-League team, along with Isadora Loureiro '24.

The Cross Country and Track and Field program at Molloy has also had a successful run this year. Recently, the JV girls track team won 1st place in the BQs and in the City, and Varsity came 2nd in the BQs. A handful of students on multiple competitive levels are expected to compete in States in the coming weeks, including Varsity athletes Aoife Garvey '25, Camille Munoz '25, Eva Gonzalez '24, Landon Recio '26, Sean Garvey '25, and Chris Dalton '24. Many athletes did incredibly well

this fall and were amazing representatives for Molloy!

The Girls Varsity Tennis team has a phenomenal season which ended in winning the BQ Championship! Led by Head Coach Ms. Mary Edward, the team earned back-to-back victories for Molloy. In the final game against Xaverian, they went out strong with a big 3-2 victory! Senior Angelina Verashchagina '24 commented saying, "The season was great! Me and the team had our ups and downs, but we did great! Winning City Champs was amazing. Mentally, it definitely feels like a lot with college applications and regular school work, but I enjoyed it and would never change it for the world." The team also battled through states and finished the season as State Finalists.

Already, so many sports teams are excelling at incredibly high levels. As we head into the winter, the sports change, but the pride that our athletes have as Stanners never leaves. Congratulations to everyone on a great fall sports season! As always, stay tuned for sports such as swimming and basketball as they shine this winter. Be sure to check team schedules on the Molloy website or on Instagram!



Boys Freshman Swimming place 4th in champs.



Girls Varsity Tennis are BQ Champs & State Finalists.



Soph Girls Track wins first CHSAA title since 2000.



Girls Varsity Soccer celebrates Senior Day.



Boys Varsity Soccer in a 5-2 win over CTK.



Girls Varsity Swimming are enjoying a great start!



Varsity Volleyball are Queens Metro Campus Champs.



Varsity Bowling during 5-0 win vs. Xaverian.



Softball teams raise \$1K for breast cancer research.