



THE STANNER

MOLLOY'S HOME FOR STUDENT NEWS & OPINION

VOLUME LXIX

ISSUE NO. I

FALL 2025

Freshman Field Day: A Fun and Exciting Competition to Welcome the Class of 2029

by Emma Castillo '29 | Photos by Ms. Calakos '13

As is tradition here at Archbishop Molloy High School, the new generation of Freshman Stanners kicked off the year with Freshman Field Day. Taking place this year on September 26th, Freshman Field Day is a series of games where homerooms compete in many different events such as races, high jumps, soccer and basketball shootouts, coding challenges, and a quiz bowl to see which homeroom will come out on top!

Students arrived at 8:30 dressed in their gym uniforms and began the day with their annual Class Liturgy of the Holy Spirit given in the Curran Gymnasium. The liturgy was led by Father Nicholas Colalella, Father Anthony Rosado, and Bishop Robert J. Brennan, to the tune of our very own Junior/Senior Chorus. A paper cross filled with writings from the Freshmen that stated their strengths and unique skills was displayed at the Mass as well.

After Mass, all students reconvened in their homerooms for a short while before returning to the gym to cheer on their representatives in the basketball and soccer shootouts. Following this, representatives from each homeroom broke off and participated in different events around the school. Some of the indoor events included chess, a coding challenge, a quiz bowl, and a one minute challenge, where students had to count to a minute in their heads and sit down at the sixty second mark. Whoever sat down closest to the one-minute mark won. The outdoor events included different elements from Track & Field- such as the 100m dash, the 800m run, long jump, shot put, and javelin.

The final and arguably most exciting event of the day was the high jump, where students were challenged to clear the bar as it was placed higher and higher. The stakes were high for our competitors! All homerooms had their own sections, and the cheering and energy in the room was infectious and thrilling. Although all



Homeroom 1G were crowned as 2025 Freshman Field Day Champions!



Girls Soccer Shootout.



Boys Long Jump.

contestants performed well, Sofia Destreza '29 (for the girls) and Mark Frankovic '29 (for the boys) took the victory!

At the end of the day, it was revealed that Ms. Winters and her Homeroom 1G won the title of 2025 Freshman Field Day Champions! Although there was only one victor, each and every student gave it their all, so in the end, everyone won. This day of sport gave the freshmen a sense of community while getting them excited for the new school year. We can't wait to see what the Class of 2029 will achieve during their time at Molloy!



Boys Chess Matches.


Christmas Concerts
 BAND/SOPHOMORE CHORUS:
 DECEMBER 11, 2025
and
 JUNIOR/SENIOR CHORAL CONCERT:
 DECEMBER 18, 2025

Featured in this Issue

- New Teacher Spotlights
- Fall Play Review
- Molloy's Murphy Scholars
- Recap of Stanner Fall Sports
-and More!



Get to Know Three of Molloy's New Teachers!

Back from France: Meet our New Language Teacher!

by Emmi Bisono '27



This school year welcomed many new teachers across various subject departments. In particular, the World Languages Department welcomed Ms. Brigid Stenson as a French teacher and a Spanish teacher.

She grew up in Garden City, Long Island and attended elementary and middle school at St. Anne's School. Later on, she spent her high school years at Sacred Heart Academy before heading to Clemson University in South Carolina for college where she majored in History and French. During her time at Clemson, she studied abroad in Lyon, France and completed several fashion internships that intensified her love for French culture. After graduating college, Ms. Stenson was accepted into the TAPIF program - Teaching Assistant Program in France - where she was assigned to teach in a rural area in central France. She ended up staying in France for several years, teaching for the local school district, before she made the decision to come back home.

What inspired you to become a teacher and to teach both Spanish and French to high school students?

I was inspired to become a World Language teacher by my own high school French teacher, Madame Grady, at Sacred Heart Academy. She made me love studying languages so much that I pursued it in college and eventually moved to France. This initial spark was what made me obsessed with French culture and now I want to share that passion with students!

What have you learned from your time living in France and experiencing French culture?

Living in France has taught me so much! Previously I had only visited/studied abroad in bigger cities like Lyon and Paris, so moving to a rural area in central France I really got to dive headfirst into French culture. I was able to learn more about what daily life is like as well as experience the French school system. Some of my favorite experiences were celebrating French traditions and holidays with French families that welcomed me into their homes.

What is your favorite memory from the time you spent in France?

I have many great memories about my time in France, but one of my favorites was organizing a Thanksgiving meal for my neighborhood at our local bistro. Being an American holiday, they were very curious to learn about our traditions (especially the food aspect)! We were able to design a menu that became a French/American Thanksgiving fusion. Everyone learned and laughed a lot- making it an amazing cross-cultural experience that I will never forget.

At what point in your life did you know that pursuing a career in education was what you wanted to do?

As an older sister, I would always force my younger siblings [to] play "school" with me but when I seriously knew was when I volunteered at a primary school in Lyon during my study abroad program. At that point I was only going to the school twice a week, but the impact I saw, and creativity I felt in such a short time made me realize how great it could be full time.

What is something that you hope that your students take away from you and your class by the end of the year?

By the end of the year, I hope my students take away an excitement for language learning and passion for French/Spanish cultures. Grammar is great (and necessary) but being able to connect with others through traditions, music, art, and food is an invaluable lesson that will serve you throughout your life. I hope I can inspire my students to travel and take chances to communicate and experience life with others in a second language.

What is the most rewarding part about teaching?

The most rewarding thing about teaching is inspiring a student to independently become interested and excited about a topic we talk about in class. It is a gift to watch someone light up and experience the joy of learning because of you.

What methods do you use to keep students engaged in class and motivated to learn?

In my classes, I like to switch things up- always ending with some kind of game or interactive activities. In all of my classes we do "Cultural Fridays" where we go beyond grammar and learn about interesting topics in the Francophone/ Spanish-speaking worlds.

What is one piece of advice that you would give someone that is hoping to learn another language?

My advice to someone learning a new language would be to expose yourself to the maximum amount of media in that language as possible. The dream scenario would be to regularly travel to those countries, but if Paris is a little far for a school week, try to listen to every podcast, TV show, read magazines, books- anything you can get your hands on in your target language!

Are there any clubs, teams, or projects that you're hoping to get involved in outside of the class?

I would love to get involved with the language clubs, trips, and maybe even Speech & Debate! I am open to helping out with any activities/teams at Molloy.

Is there anything new this year that you are planning on doing as a teacher?

This year, I am trying to really lean into varied cultural aspects, like art history/history, fashion, music, and food to make the language really come alive in the classroom. I am also working on having some kind of video/letter exchange between my students at Molloy and my old students in France!

"I'm so happy to now be teaching at Molloy!" Ms. Stenson expresses. Whenever she is not in the classroom, she enjoys doing numerous activities to pass the time. Some things she enjoys doing are: exploring new restaurants, visiting museums, spending time at the beach, practicing yoga, and hanging out with her French puppy, Vanille!

From Student to Teacher

by Sandra Goncalves '27



Former student Ms. Grogan has returned to Molloy as a teacher. From the graduating class of 2015, Ms. Grogan remembers Molloy as a "safe haven," where students were encouraged to be their best selves. As an involved student athlete, she played soccer and ran hurdles her entire high school career, and picked up lacrosse in her senior year! As a student she also jumped at the chance to go to Esopus, for retreats or camps and was also involved in Molloy's spiritual growth clubs, like SMILE. Characterizing herself as a student with "a bit of tunnel vision," Ms. Grogan says that she used to focus more on the imperfections in her work, rather than the improvement of her education. That was until she read *The Gap and the Gain* by Dan Sullivan, which opened her eyes to the inevitable imperfections in life and learning processes. This mindset undoubtedly strengthens her teaching.

Currently teaching Physics and Chemistry, Ms. Grogan's passion is to "bring more opportunities from the engineering industry to the high school level and encourage students to understand the field before they get to college." Ms. Grogan says that she was only introduced to engineering herself because of Molloy's influential guidance counselor, Mr. McGuinness. In pursuing this, she realized that her goal was to become a teacher during her undergraduate at Manhattan College, and later took part in STEM outreach programs. Having achieved that goal, this will be her third year teaching.

Ms. Grogan is not only continuing her Molloy career in education, but also in athletics. She is the coach of the girls' JV soccer team and already can't wait for the next season. She says that her first year of coaching has been a great experience and shouts out the girls' JV soccer team for growing so much in one season and making her so proud.

Ms. Grogan also shares that everyone at Molloy is "beyond kind and supportive." She mentions that the only shock she had when returning to the school was that Molloy now has 3D printers. Her perspective proves that the foundation of Molloy, a welcoming and uplifting community, remains unchanged. Her presence also calls us to realize that amongst today's generation of Molloy students, we may find the Molloy faculty of the next generation. Ms. Grogan choosing to return to the building where she was once a student sheds light on how being a Stanner and a part of the Molloy community really is not for school, but for life.

Welcome Mr. Traynor!

by **Katey Remon '27**



As the new school year starts, Molloy not only gains new students, but also new teachers. Joining the language department, we are happy to welcome a new teacher, Mr. Traynor! Mr. Traynor teaches Spanish 1 and Spanish 2 to freshmen and sophomores. Mr. Traynor knows Gaelic, French and Spanish, but is only teaching Spanish at Molloy.

How has your Molloy Experience been so far?

Mr. Traynor's Molloy Experience has been great so far! His students have been good and he is currently getting to know the school and the students more.

Are there currently any sports or clubs you are supervising or want to get involved in?

Mr. Traynor is not involved in any clubs, as he is still "finding [his] feet" at Molloy. However, he was

especially intrigued by Irish Club and had talked to Ms. Callagy about possibly being able to participate in the club.

How did you come to teach language?

Mr. Traynor said he always loved language. His school, in Ireland, only taught French as a foreign language and you also had to learn Gaelic. Mr. Traynor took Gaelic and French up to his senior year. He took Spanish outside of school and absolutely loved it. He is now teaching Spanish at Molloy!

What are you most looking forward to this year?

Mr. Traynor is most looking forward to getting to know the school better. He is still trying to figure out how the school works and finding his feet.



Celebrating Liturgies of the Holy Spirit

by **Allison Chmil '27**

Archbishop Molloy has celebrated many different liturgies in our Jack Curran Gym. Our liturgies this fall consisted of each grade level having their own mass of the Holy Spirit. These masses gave every student from all grade levels an opportunity to reflect on their faith, join together in prayer and prepare spiritually for the beginning of their school year. At these four masses, a cross was displayed in front of the altar, in which some of our Stanners had signed, filled with the strengths and unique qualities of each member of the class. The cross at each mass served as a symbol of how each Stanner at Molloy serves a purpose and is a part of Christ. Celebrants Father Nicholas Colella, Father Anthony Risado and Bishop Robert J. Brennan all came together to make Molloy's masses of the Holy Spirit complete. They also highlighted to our Stanners the importance of their character, purpose, and strength together as a whole. Deacon Kramer, Ms. Cuomo, our wonderful chorus, the liturgy committee, staff, students and our celebrants all put work and dedication into making Molloy's masses empowering.

Molloy Hosts Annual Open House

by **Brandon Samaroo '27** | Photos by **Cesar Munoz '26**

On Sunday, October 19th, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Molloy hosted its highly anticipated annual Fall Open house. This exciting event presented a wonderful opportunity for prospective students and their families to explore the school, learn more about its programs, and experience the unique sense of community that defines life at Molloy. Before the tour even began, families were welcomed by Molloy's Cheer Team who performed outside the main entrance. As the doors opened around 10 a.m. the families were first given a cookie and then headed to where the principal was going to address them. Upon arriving, the tour then officially began with a speech from the principal, Dr. Darius Penikas, and was followed by reflections from a few Stanners who shared their experiences both in school and at Esopus. Each group of families had guides that were Stanners who volunteered to give them a tour around the school's main attractions and key aspects.

Throughout the tour, visitors explored the biology and chemistry lab, the art studio, the innovation labs, and the library. In the labs, visitors witnessed Stanners performing a myriad of experiments, such as in the biology lab where there were different animal dissections and in the chemistry lab where they experimented with chemical reactions. Visitors then

took a look at the art studio, where they admired many great student creations such as comics, paintings, and 3-D designs. The next stop was the two new innovation centers where computer science classes are held. These new innovation centers held a plethora of equipment such as 3D-printers, laptops, and plenty of space for students to work at.

Afterwards, visitors learned about the science research program from Stanners who took part in it, listening as they explained how students conduct their own scientific research and work with professional mentors. They then stopped by the William J. Murphy library where students study and read during free periods. In the library, they listened as Ms. DeNoto discussed destinations for Educational Adventures such as Greece and Italy in 2028. These trips allow students to expand their learning beyond the classroom and also allow for a fun activity to cherish with friends. The last stop on the tour was the Capt. Anthony Marsloe Gym where families learned about clubs, sports, and academics. Visitors were allowed to look around at tables that had respective clubs or sports teams like baseball or soccer and learn more about them. As a nice send off to the visitors, they stopped by the Jack Curran Gym and listened to the Molloy Band and Choir perform and

sing. The Molloy community was extremely welcoming to the families and showed them throughout our great school and made them feel at home. Thanks to the assiduous work by both faculty and students, the open house served as an amazing opportunity for families and future students to get a feel for our community and how much it means to be a Stanner.



The Verdict is Out

A Review of the Stanner Players' *12 Angry Jurors*

by Anya Satyanarayana '27 | Photos by Ms. Calakos '13

This November, the Stanner Players transformed The Ralph DeChiaro Theatre into a courtroom, to put on *12 Angry Jurors*, this year's fall play! This humorous and intense drama had everyone on the edge of their seat- what will be the final verdict of the case? As tension in the courtroom built, one thing was for sure- this production was an out of this courtroom success!

From November 20th - November 23, The Ralph DeChiaro Theatre became Archbishop Molloy's very own trial court, as 12 jurors argued to prove the innocence (or guilt) of a young man accused of murder. However, one man proved to make this a difficult feat as his conflicting opinion from the other 11 jurors prohibited the group from making a conviction. Unlike any other performances the Stanner

Players have showcased, *12 Angry Jurors* proved to be a unique show: it was performed in one scene. With no scene changes or breaks, this raised the stakes and the suspense. One of the stage managers, Alex Lopez '26 noted that the lack of scene changes made the play "very dramatic, while still being a drama with character and personality, and being simple and easy to follow." The uninterrupted pacing allowed each juror's personality to unfold naturally, giving the cast room to develop their character in unique ways.

This play was also a landmark for many members of the Stanner Players, as this was the senior members of the show's last fall play. Isabella Fortunato '26 discussed how this is "very different from other plays she has done, but equally as rewarding." Sofia Crino '26 also noted that "each character has their own personality, and it is really able to shine through in their own unique way, making the play very memorable." Izzy Velez '27 also added that "it is easy to pay attention to the uniqueness of each character."

The hard work put into this play by the cast and crew members was unmistakable. From late after school rehearsals to long weekend rehearsals, each member of the Stanner Players devoted the utmost time and effort to making this play be the best it can be. In addition to the cast, the theatre director, Ms. Winters dedicated work and preparation that made the show run smoothly and efficiently. She described how the 12 cast members must "keep time, pace, momentum and stay fully into the show." Similar to the fall play last year, *Deadline*, "*12 Angry Jurors* is also a mystery comedy. This play was based on the movie *12 Angry Men*, and helps viewers



better understand the judicial process, and how people may react to each other in high stress situations."

Based on the reactions of the crowd as well, it is safe to say the audience received well to the different aspects of the play. Isaac Contreras '27 says that his favorite part of the play was "seeing it unfold as each juror broke down the case and tried to persuade the other to vote guilty or not guilty." He also adds that he was "impressed by the acting and emotions displayed by each juror", and by the end he was, "on the edge of [his] seat, entertained and waiting for a verdict to the case." Charlotte Murawski '27 agreed that she was "shocked" watching the play, and Savannah Collado '27 added that she was "on the edge of [her] seat."

All in all, it is safe to say that *12 Angry Jurors* was a stupendous success! This show was filled with entertainment and mystery, as well as shedding light on the judicial process. The cast and crew's commitment and the director's vision contributed to a memorable performance that will be regarded as a tremendous accomplishment for time to come! Congratulations to the entire team involved in the show, and come back next year for the next fall play!



Prioritizing Health and Fitness

by Nick Carbone '26, Rinat Moshel '26, Dana Seo '26

In today's issue we would like to shed some light on Archbishop Molloy's Health & Fitness club. This club led by Ms. Vicari is great for not only physical health but also mental health!

Whether you're a gym bro, yoga lover or mental health advocate this club is definitely for you. Ms. Vicari has been strength training and mediating for years now but you don't need any experience to join this club, anyone can join and take advantage of its great learning opportunities.

Mia Quintana '26, a student leader of the Health & Fitness Club explains, "After school it's a way to help clear your mind and release your stress. We would love to welcome participants in the club." The Health & Fitness Club is the perfect way to relax after a hard and overstimulating day of school. Not only that but it also provides the perfect environment to move your body and learn how to exercise safely and properly. The Club offers a judgment free zone that is open to anyone, no

matter their expertise level or background in physical fitness. As stated earlier the Health & Fitness club is open to all members of the student body.

Nihal Chadha '26, a member of the Health & Fitness Club mentions a unique aspect to the club. Apart from talking about the usual fitness activities like running or walking, he adds that sometimes they meet and "meditate to unwind after a long school day." He explains how "meditation is often overlooked when it comes to health and fitness" and should be exposed more. This is why this club is something that could be beneficial to a larger group of people. It teaches us how there are alternatives to being healthy and staying fit. He truly believes that the Health and Fitness Club is a step towards the right direction and encourages everyone to take part in it, whether it's for physically challenging yourself or unwinding after a long school day with meditation.

Getting to understand the club through the students'



perspective is great, but it's also nice to see it from the teacher's perspective as well. The club moderator, Ms. Vicari, states that she loves running the club because it allows her not only to practice her personal hobby but also to meet students who share the same interests. She says, "This year we had a lot of freshmen input, and it's great for students of all grade levels to bond based on this shared interest." The Health and Fitness Club is a new hit and is eager to welcome new members with open arms and no judgment, no matter their experience.

The Stanner Comic Corner

Densest places
on Earth, in a
snapshot



Written by Enda Connolly
Illustrated by Sebastian Castillo

3rd place



Shibuya, Japan

2nd place



Times Square, New Years Eve

First place:
AMHS third floor

Freshman One Day Retreat

by Emmi Bisono '27 | Photos by Mrs. Gerold

On August 28, 2025, Archbishop Molloy welcomed the class of 2029 to participate in the Freshman One Day Retreat. This retreat happens every year, for every freshman class that comes to Molloy. It's an opportunity for them to meet their peers and partake in a day of activities, both team building and spiritual ones. Just under 400 freshmen were in attendance on this day; with each student bringing in different items for donation. This retreat is focused on the five pillars of our Marist faith: Simplicity, Love of Work, Presence, Family Spirit, and In the Way of Mary. These five pillars are the core values that Marists hold, and they are used to help us live our lives through faith and service.

The day started off with some small ice breakers and introductions to the Campus Ministry team, Dr. Alice Prince, and Dr. Penikas. After, an opening prayer was led by the student leaders, 'Setting Our Marist Table', showing how we all have a place in Molloy, and how there's always room for more. Shortly after, a talk was given by Sameera Zaheid '27 to introduce the five pillars to the freshmen, and explain what they are, how she lives them out, and how others can too. This set the stage for the small group activities, which were centered around these five Marist pillars.



Students participating in the *Love of Work* Cards Making Connections activity

One of the activity stations was focused on the Marist pillar of Simplicity. Simplicity means being straightforward and genuine, humble and modest, or in other words, 'doing good quietly'. Students made Simplicity Banners, where they each traced their hand and inside wrote a way in which they could live out the pillar of Simplicity during their freshman year. This activity demonstrated how the kind, small actions that

we do in our day, we do not for awards or praise, but because we understand that it's the right thing to do.

This leads into the next activity that students participated in, centered around the pillar Love of Work. Love of Work means being generous of heart, determined in meeting the needs of our community and encouraging each other to do the same. During this activity, students got to experience a service opportunity that Molloy often offers - Cards Making Connections. They made cards for people at the Ronald McDonald House, where families staying here are provided with essential care while their children are in the hospital. This activity allowed the freshmen to experience service before actually attending Molloy, and showed how their efforts and kindness can truly make an impact on someone who needs it.

The next station activity was focused on the pillar of Presence. Presence is caring for one another, creating bonds, and welcoming others with open arms. This activity, named Blind and Guide, included an obstacle course where one person was blindfolded and another person had to guide them through a series of obstacles, using only their voice. This obstacle course showed the pillar of Presence as each person had to be fully attentive and present to what's happening, while also building bonds and connections between group members.

The fourth activity was focused on the pillar of Family Spirit. Family Spirit can be defined as being there for one another, making sure no one is left out, and recognizing that everyone brings something unique to the group. During this activity, students were given limited supplies and had to challenge another team to see who can create the tallest freestanding tower. However, the challenge with this was that every group member had some sort of limitation - some including not being able to speak, or not being able to use your arms. This demonstrated Family Spirit because every member of the group has to equally work together, despite the challenges, in order to complete the end goal.

After these four pillar activities took place, the junior student leaders continued to give their talks and presentations about different aspects of our Marist faith. Anya Satyanarayana '27 and Juneaux Fabello '27 gave their talks and presentations on St. Marcellin Champagnat, the founder of our Marist faith. They gave insight to who Marcellin Champagnat was, and how his impact is still lasting today throughout the



Students participating in the *Family Spirit* tower building activity

world. Talks about Mary, Our Good Mother were given by Enda Connolly '27 and I where we explained what that title means to us, and how we see Mary in our own lives. To introduce our last pillar activity, James Walsh '27 and Angelina Becker '27 explained the pillar, In the Way of Mary, and the activity to come with it. This pillar recognizes Mary as the perfect model of the Marist faith, and living a life like she did. Each student was given a string with a set of knots, and these knots were to symbolize different intentions each individual wanted to pray for. This pillar activity was intended to be a reflective pillar activity, showing how Mary, Undoer of Knots prays for us and with us. To finish off our student leader speeches, Lilly Kacziba '27 and Isaac Contreras '27 gave witness talks about a story of their own and how the Marist faith and Molloy has impacted their lives.

After lunch, the day continued on with a surprise performance by magician Giancarlo Bernini. He combined magic and faith together to impress everyone while also giving them a spiritual experience. After the impressive performance, students broke off into groups and reflected on their day and time during the retreat. The day concluded with a prayer by student leaders called "Your Journey Begins." It highlighted the fact that the incoming freshmen were now part of the Stanner family. The prayer was a reminder that this is just the beginning of their journey here, and that as Stanners we show up, care, and love one another like a family no matter what happens.

The Stanner Word Search

Created by Sandra Goncalves '27

A	K	A	H	D	O	P	E	N	H	O	U	S	E
F	C	M	X	C	A	F	E	T	E	R	I	A	G
R	A	T	R	K	V	D	A	L	O	X	P	E	U
E	D	L	I	X	H	D	X	D	B	F	H	X	U
S	E	J	L	V	F	Z	V	K	E	A	X	G	L
H	G	P	T	P	I	S	E	N	I	O	R	S	I
M	M	R	R	H	L	T	S	O	D	G	F	C	T
A	R	Q	L	W	Y	A	I	N	I	J	I	I	U
N	D	L	Y	U	C	I	Y	E	S	X	K	F	R
C	A	R	E	T	R	E	A	T	S	F	Q	O	G
A	V	P	O	A	U	H	G	W	V	F	Z	J	Y
M	U	R	P	H	Y	S	C	H	O	L	A	R	S
P	R	B	N	M	I	X	A	L	P	O	U	I	K
K	N	E	W	T	E	A	C	H	E	R	S	J	R

FALLPLAY
OPENHOUSE
MURPHYSCHOLARS
LITURGY
RETREATS
SENIORS
ACTIVITIESFAIR
FRESHMANCAMP
NEWTEACHERS
CAFETERIA

Puzzle solution located on Page 8

Molloy's Murphy Scholars

by Kristina Raevsky '28

Of the many great things Molloy has to offer, one of the most unique is the Murphy Scholars Program, a scholarship program that helps students by partially or entirely covering the cost of attending summer enrichment programs on college campuses. Started in the spring 2019, the Murphy Scholars Program was created to assist students in gaining access to experiential learning opportunities. The program is named after Dr. Patrick Murphy '60, who was a teacher and guidance counselor at Molloy for many years, and a strong believer in the idea that for students to truly learn and reach their full potential, they need to get out of their comfort zones. Murphy Scholars runs on generous alumni contributions, and in only a few years, the program has grown exponentially.

Students interested in a variety of disciplines become Murphy Scholars, such as finance, engineering, medicine, law, politics, the arts, and more. One Murphy Scholar is Elizabeth Canty '26, who attended a six-day program at the United States Naval Academy. There, she experienced life at the Academy, including the very strict discipline, 6am workouts, and one of the key tenets of the Naval Academy, loyalty. Elizabeth engaged in various workshops, physics demonstrations, lab experiments, and military formation drills.



Kristina Raevsky '28 in Washington, D.C. during her program at Georgetown University

Furthermore, Elizabeth's experience didn't end at the conclusion of her program, as she is "in contact with several students at the Academy that are a perfect resource to ask questions and seek advice." This was certainly an invaluable experience for Elizabeth; therefore, she would recommend the Murphy Scholars Program to other Stanners because it "offers the unique opportunity to access resources that students might not otherwise be able to."

I too am a Murphy Scholar. This summer, I ventured to Georgetown University for a week-long summer program about intelligence and national security. Some of the highlights were our trips to the FBI and DIA during which I spoke to former FBI agents and current employees to gain insight into their various careers. We also heard from several guest speakers, including a two-star general of the United States Space Force. I also got to test out this career path by engaging in hands-on activities such as our National Security Council Simulation where "heads of agencies" worked to resolve crises. I am immensely grateful to the Murphy Scholars Program for making my trip possible since I am now considering a new major from what I had previously intended.

Mr. Gus Esgro, college counselor and founder of the Murphy Scholars Program, sees first-hand what a difference the program makes in students' college application process, saying, "It not only allows students to gain access to opportunities, but often times, these experiences help determine which career pathway a student wants to start down in college....roughly 95% of students end up applying for a similar major to the program they completed."

Brahmjot Singh '26 is a great example of that other 5%. Brahmjot completed an intense, 5-week asynchronous architecture program at The Cooper Union where he created designs under the guidance of



Elizabeth Canty '26 (fourth from left) at the U.S. Naval Academy

professors to display in a portfolio. As a result of his program, Brahmjot realized that architecture was not the right fit for him. Brahmjot describes just how vital it was for him to come to this realization now before applying to colleges—"Had I not done this program I would have ended up applying to architecture schools and wasted time and money applying to these schools and might have ended up sitting in an art studio and then realizing I disliked architecture." Thus, he would absolutely recommend the Murphy Scholars program to others because "if a student is hesitant about a field, such as I was, they could take a summer program on it with the help of Murphy Scholars and decide through that program if they want to go into the field."

If you are a current freshman, sophomore, or junior, you are eligible to apply to become a Murphy Scholar. The process is relatively simple—select and apply to a summer program, simultaneously apply for a scholarship, and once you are accepted into the summer program, then you will have an interview with Mr. Esgro. Keep an eye out for Mr. Esgro's messages through the announcements and email. There is also an informational meeting over zoom every December for those interested in learning more about Molloy's amazing Murphy Scholars Program.

A huge thank you on behalf of all the Murphy Scholars to Molloy for providing us with such incredible opportunities!

Incoming Freshman Camp

by Emily Mussalli '28

For many Stanners, Molloy's annual Freshman Camp has been a defining part of their Molloy experience, but Freshman Camp hasn't always been the way we know it today. Freshman Camp originally began in the early 1970s. The Marist Brothers Retreat Center, where Freshman Camp is held, used to be an active school, but the building was rarely used over the summer. That sparked an idea in the Marist Brothers: to hold a school orientation camp for Marist high schools across the country. Over time, Freshman Camp changed to include Molloy only and became the camp we know and love today.

Molloy's most recent Freshman Camp was held from July 6th to July 12th and welcomed 116 members of the Class of 2029 to the Molloy family. Here, sophomores, juniors and seniors as well as Molloy teachers and alumni all volunteer their time to make the freshmen feel at home. For the first half of the week, campers spent time with their small group playing icebreaker games, doing crafts and experiencing some freshman camp specific games like cageball and tennyball for the morning. Then in the afternoons, students could participate in sports tournaments or off site trips like hiking, an escape room or an arcade with bowling. In the evening, the freshmen were introduced to Molloy's infamous Flag and Esopus style dodgeball. Then, they met in small groups with upperclassmen counselors to help facilitate even stronger connections.

The second half of the week began with the Class of 2029's first class liturgy by the mansion at Esopus. Then, the competitive camp wars began where the entire camp was drafted into two teams. The team names are decided by the upperclassmen way before camp even begins. To keep the tradition of both team

names starting with the same letter, this year's teams were named the Pirates and the Patriots. The Pirates captains were Giulian Della Polla '26 and Lauren Hicks '26. The Patriots captains were Charles Long '26 and Sarah Mallia '26.

These captains, with the help of their fellow counselors, led the campers through all sorts of games including spoon races, ping pong and foosball. There were also soccer shootouts, water balloon tosses, swim races and more. In the evening, they played dodgeball and Flag.

Friday night Flag is considered a highlight of Freshman Camp to many. Alumni from several graduating years came up to support the new freshman and act as referees for the game. The camp war team counselors came out in custom designed costumes based on their team name, creating a sense of family spirit. After greeting the alumni, Flag begins! After a few games, the alumni even got to play their own game of Flag while the campers took a halftime break. Then the games continue, with teams cheering loudly and everyone getting into it, even the least athletic.

After a very close, almost tied game, the Pirates turned out to be the winners! Although the Patriots were disappointed in losing, the end of camp creates such an indescribable feeling of joy and unity. The captains of both teams, winners and losers, gave a speech. Then, warm, homemade cookies and milk were served to the camp. After cookies, the whole camp circled around, played songs, sang and spent time all together, one last time. It felt like something out of a



movie. At the end, you are truly able to reflect back on the friendships you've made, all the ways you have grown in confidence and faith and all in all, have a newfound appreciation for your fellow Stanners. This appreciation creates indescribable unity.

Anyone who has been to camp can vouch for how meaningful it is. Almost everyone who has gone there is always dying to go back. For those who want to go back to camp as an upperclassman, it is a very competitive application process, with hundreds from each grade applying for only 18 spots. 2025 Counselor Sarah Mallia '26 says that's because "Freshman Camp is uniquely a tradition you can't find anywhere else, and the impact it leaves on those fortunate enough to attend it is one of a kind. Those who get the most out of the week leave Esopus comfortable being uncomfortable. I truly believe its magic is because of the people. The freshmen, counselors, faculty—everyone contributes to making it a remarkable place to be."

All in all, freshman camp is a truly remarkable and indescribable experience and truly changes everyone who experiences it.

Senior Spotlight: Bella Reyes '26

by Michael Seibert '28

Known to her classmates as positive, funny, and considerate, Bella Reyes '26 has made the most of her time here at Archbishop Molloy High School. At Molloy, Bella has achieved many accomplishments, learned many things, and made many irreplaceable memories with her fellow Stanners.



In the very beginning, Bella felt challenged when transitioning to Molloy. Bella came to Molloy as a sophomore, but she was able to easily adapt to Molloy due to the support she received from her classmates and teachers. In Bella's words, "It didn't take long before I felt at home and part of the Molloy family." One way Bella became a part of the Molloy family was by joining clubs. She is a part of the Self-Care club and the Italian club, both of which support her in different ways. Bella said, "I enjoy the Self-Care Club because it's a safe space to focus on mental health and wellness, which is really important during high school. The Italian Club is fun because it allows me to explore the culture, language, and traditions while connecting with classmates who share the same interest."

Beyond clubs, Bella has also found great enjoyment in Molloy's Esopus retreat camp. Like many other Stanners, Bella has found great joy from her time at Esopus, saying "It's a peaceful place where you can really bond with your classmates and reflect. It helped me feel more connected to the Molloy community." It comes as no surprise that Bella's favorite memory at Molloy is being able to go to Esopus.

Bella has also been able to excel academically at Molloy with the help of her teachers. One teacher she spoke highly of was Mr. DeSarno and his Constitutional Law class, which is the favorite class she has taken at Molloy. Bella said that despite his strictness, "his teaching style really sparks my interest and keeps me fully involved in the material." Bella also gave praise to Ms. Laureano and her Spanish class. Bella said "Ms. Laureano makes learning Spanish engaging and fun, and she encourages us to explore the language and culture in creative ways."

Looking past Molloy, Bella hopes to be an anesthesiologist in the future. She said that classes like anatomy, physiology, and chemistry have been useful in establishing the scientific foundation and critical thinking skills she will need as an anesthesiologist. Furthermore, Bella's foundation to grow as a person has been strengthened at Molloy. She credits Molloy with her being more confident, responsible, and open-minded. When she graduates, Bella said that she will miss the Molloy family most, saying she will miss, "the people, teachers, and everyday moments that made Molloy feel like home. It's rare to find a place where everyone genuinely supports one another." As Bella prepares to graduate Molloy, her message to the freshman class is one of opportunity and success. Bella's message is, "Don't be afraid to get involved! Join clubs, talk to new people, and enjoy every moment. The four years go by faster than you think, and Molloy has so much to offer if you put yourself out there."

Senior Spotlight: Sienna Loftus '26

by Jiah Patel '27

Hardworking, athletic, and a true leader, Sienna Loftus '26 is the definition of a well-rounded student. Whether she's leading the soccer team, guiding new students at Freshman Camp, or working hard in the classroom, she consistently demonstrates both leadership and intelligence. Extremely driven, Sienna is on the varsity lacrosse team, serves as a retreat leader at Esopus, has taken many honors and AP courses, and was one of the captains of the varsity soccer team this past season.



Sienna joined the soccer team at Molloy as a freshman, helping her team reach the JV city finals. She was pulled up to the varsity team in her sophomore year, and has helped lead them to the semifinals every season since. When asked what the best part of being captain of the soccer team was, she said, "It's definitely made me a better player. It's nice seeing how well everyone works together and the dynamics between the girls." Outside of Molloy soccer, Sienna's biggest athletic achievement was winning the Long Island Cup with her club team in her freshman year, and that same year, her team won the Long Island Premier Division, where they went undefeated. Recently wrapping up her last season playing soccer at Molloy, she reflected on what she'll miss the most, saying, "I'm going to miss the friendships I've made and the girls that I've been playing with. The sisterhood is so important to me. I would not be half the player I am without these girls."

Beyond athletics, Sienna demonstrates her leadership through her roles as a retreat leader, Freshman Camp counselor, and has volunteered at the Mid Hudson Valley Special Camps at Esopus. During her junior year, she led the sophomore retreat. When asked about her experience leading the retreat, she said, "I've always had such a strong connection with Esopus, and my passion for the Molloy community led me to want to take on this role. It was impactful being able to create an environment where people felt comfortable opening up."

Along with her involvement in school activities, Sienna excels in her classes. She is currently taking AP Biology, AP Research, AP Calculus AB, AP Language, and is a Peer Group leader. When asked about her favorite class, she notes, "definitely AP Language, that class is so fun and Mr. Sheehan is so funny." Sienna is an AP Scholar with Honor, a member of the National Honor Society, has won the Merit Interview Award for service hours, and after finishing her AP Research exam, she will earn the AP Capstone Diploma.

Sienna says that her biggest inspiration is her father, and notes that she has always seen him work hard from a young age, which inspires her to put in her best effort in anything that she does. Some advice that she would give to her freshman self is "to challenge myself and to push myself every single year, and to not be afraid to try new things." When looking back on her time at Molloy, Sienna shared her favorite memories and how they've impacted her. She highlights her time volunteering at Kids 1 Camp at Esopus, saying, "being at Molloy pushed me to participate in things that I didn't know I would be so passionate about. Volunteering at Kids 1 Camp was impactful for me because I was able to provide those kids a safe and comfortable environment so that they could have a great time at camp." In college, Sienna plans to major in business, and she is excited to go backpacking through Europe with her brother and her best friend during the summer after graduation.

Whether she was your camp counselor at Freshman Camp or a soccer teammate, anyone who is lucky enough to know Sienna knows how hardworking she is. Throughout her time at Molloy, Sienna has made a significant impact and has proven herself to be an amazing leader.

There's Something About Mary

by Lorelai Villalona '28

Have you ever wondered who our lunch servers really are? I was fortunate enough to interview our very own Mary Rodriguez. We find out a little bit more about Mary; her day to day, her upbringing, and more. Mary's constant kindness and consideration for others is why I knew she was perfect for this interview.

Here's how it went:

Q: How long have you been working at Molloy?

A: "I've been working in this company for twelve years, in this school, like six years. I got transferred from Saint Francis Prep."

Q: What's your favorite part about working at Molloy?

A: "I like to work with the students because they're very nice and respectful with me, and they're very polite and kind. That's why I like working in this specific school... I like this small school because everybody knows each other. That's why I like that."

Q: What would you say your day to day looks like?

A: I wake up at 4 o'clock and then I have to take the train. I start working at 6:30 a.m., doing work like; packing cookies and then working on the registers from

7 o'clock to 2:35 p.m.... I don't prepare food except for the cookies.

Q: What did you want to be growing up?

A: "When I was in my country, I wanted to be a journalist. I came here as a tourist and I stayed in this country because I like it. I couldn't finish what I wanted to be because I started working, like most immigrants in this country. So basically I left my dream to be a journalist in Peru because I couldn't continue in this country."

Q: How do you like to relax?

A: Just listening to some music. I like all kinds of music.

Q: What makes you smile?

A: "Maybe listen to a joke or something, having interactions with students."

Q: What was the last movie or TV show that had a lasting impact on you?

A: "I watched a movie called 'The Woman in the Line.' It was an Argentinian movie on Netflix. En la película era algo así como: Trabajamos en comunidad, si me ayudas, te ayudo, todos nos ayudamos mutuamente.



[In the movie it was something like: We work in community, if you help me, I'll help you, we all help each other.]

Q: How do you want to be remembered?

A: "A person who always keeps you smiling and greets you every day in the morning. Make your day every day, trying to, you know, lift them up."

With these questions we got an insight about who Mary Rodriguez really is— a kind, selfless, and caring hard worker who brightens everybody's day. Thank you, Mary!

A Recap of the Fall Season!

by Robert Shalhoub '27 & Liliana Win '28

Boys Soccer

Varsity boys' soccer had an excellent year. They had some big wins this year against Xaverian, defeating them with a score of 4-1, and Iona Prep with a score of 2-0. They ended with an excellent undefeated season and even went on to win the BQ championship. Their undefeated season is the first time this has happened since 1976 and all credit is due to the players and the coaches. We look forward to what these teams can continue to do next season and wish them all the best going forward.

Girls Soccer

The girls' Varsity soccer team made it all the way to the Brooklyn-Queens semifinals to end off a great year of soccer, with the JV team finishing in 2nd place!. We even had 2 of our Stanner athletes make all-league this year: Grace Spencer '27 and Samantha Gaudioso '28. We wish all the best to our girls soccer team in the future.

Volleyball

Molloy's girls' volleyball teams defeated team after team this season, both Varsity and JV making incredible plays and immensely talented points. JV has played many teams in the CHSAA league, with various victories throughout the season. Varsity also maintained a strong performance throughout the season. On October 18th, Varsity Volleyball went undefeated as they competed at the Metro Campus Tournament, ending the day with a 7-0 match record and an 11-1 set record! Congratulations, Varsity Volleyball! Molloy's JV Volleyball team won 1st place near Halloween at the Volleyball-Boo Tournament at Scarsdale High School! The JV team also won BQ and City Champs! All Stanners wish these athletes good luck with next season and to our graduating athletes.

Cross Country

The Molloy Cross Country team has had a very successful season this year with new additions to the AMHS record lists, championship plaques, medals and more! Overall this season, there were various accomplishments made by the teams. The Freshman Boys Team was named Queens Champs, BQ Champs, 2nd NYC Champs, and 3rd CHSAA Champs. JV Boys were named Queens

Champs, BQ Champs, 3rd NYC Champs, and 4th CHSAA Champs. Sophomore Timothy Hider was also a State Qualifier, alongside accolades such as Sophomore BQ Champion, and Sophomore NYC Champion! Freshman Girls were awarded Queens Champs, BQ Champs, NYC Champs, 1st at St. Anthony's Invitational, and 2nd CHSAA Champs. Sophie Rosemond '29 was Freshman BQ Champion, and Ava Fescina '29 was 3rd Freshman in CHSAA. JV Girls were named BQ Champs, 2nd NYC Champs, 5th CHSAA Champs, and Sophomore All Americans. Riley Devaney '28 was Sophomore BQ Champion! Varsity Girls was titled Queens Champs, 2nd BQ Champs, 4th NYC Champs, 6th CHSAA Champs, and State Qualifiers. Multiple athletes had qualified for State Championships based on performances at Intersectional Championships! Sophomore Timothy Hider placed 186th at the State Championship, and the Girls Varsity team also placed at 218th, 233rd, 236th, 239th, 286th, and 294th respectively in the 5k race at Bowdoin Park! Although athletes are sad that the season has come to an end, they deserve all the praise for all they have accomplished in the 2025 season!

Girls Tennis

Our Stanner girl's tennis team had a great undefeated regular season. They won against every school they went up against, including Notre Dame Academy, the Mary Louis Academy, and McClancy High School. Not only was the team undefeated, but senior Christina Kyrrou '26 was undefeated all season too! All of us Stanners wish the tennis team good luck with their next season and congratulate them on a great season this year!

Bowling

Molloy's bowling teams are coming off BQ and City Championships from last fall. They both started the season undefeated and are looking forward to a good rest of the season. Varsity had a recently close game against Holy Cross, but pulled off the victory 4-1. JV had a close game against St Francis Prep, but also pulled off the win with the same 4-1 score. Both teams are looking to repeat in back-to-back championships. We wish both teams good luck with the future of their season!



The Stanner Volume LXIX - Issue No. 1

Editors-In-Chief

Elizabeth Canty '26
Sofia Crino '26

Co-Moderators

Ms. Maria Calakos '13
Communications Coordinator

Publishers

Mr. Richard Karsten '81
President

Associate Editor

Emmi Biso '27

Mr. Matt Rizzotti '04

Associate Director of Development

Dr. Darius Penikas, Ed.D.

Principal

Junior Editors

Sandra Goncalves '27
Kristina Raevsky '28
Anyia Satyanarayana '27

Word Search Solution

A	K	A	H	D	O	P	E	N	H	O	U	S	E
F	C	M	X	C	A	F	E	T	E	R	I	A	G
R	A	T	R	K	V	D	A	L	O	X	P	E	U
E	D	L	I	X	H	D	X	D	B	F	H	X	U
S	E	J	L	V	F	Z	V	K	E	A	X	G	L
H	G	P	T	P	I	S	E	N	I	O	R	S	I
M	M	R	R	H	L	T	S	O	D	G	F	C	T
A	R	Q	L	W	Y	A	I	N	I	J	I	I	U
N	D	L	Y	U	C	I	Y	E	S	X	K	F	R
C	A	R	E	T	R	E	A	T	S	F	Q	O	G
A	V	P	O	A	U	H	G	W	V	F	Z	J	Y
M	U	R	P	H	Y	S	C	H	O	L	A	R	S
P	R	B	N	M	I	X	A	L	P	O	U	I	K
K	N	E	W	T	E	A	C	H	E	R	S	J	R