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# THE STANNER

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ARCHBISHOP MOLLOY HIGH SCHOOL

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## Seniors find Naviance to be helpful

By Sandy Zaw '12 and Megan Wenzler '12

Are you that person who plans to apply to more than 10 colleges and universities? No worries. Naviance is here!

No, Naviance is not a superhero. It's a computer program that provides all the technical help seniors need to apply to college.

All seniors have a profile where they can store their grades, test scores, extracurricular activities and teacher recommendations.

College Guidance Counselor Mrs. Christine Loo said students can use their profiles to find the colleges that are a good match for them and see the odds of their being accepted by those schools.

Ms. Loo said that the more information Stanners store on Naviance, the more useful it will be to them.

She said that soon there will be a search engine for seniors to find out about scholarships, internships, and summer programs.

There will also be programs that tell you what your learning style

is and an exit survey for seniors.

So what do students think of Naviance?

Senior Manpreet Kaur said, "It does everything to help you with college except the actual applying! I think it's equally as difficult for juniors and seniors, considering half the senior class still thinks Naviance is a face cream!"

Senior Lauren Ippolito said, "I'm still trying to sort it out. I have a profile and I have requested teachers to write recommendation letters and bookmarked some schools.

"It's efficient but tricky to use. Its only benefit is for the teacher recommendations and student planner profile. I don't know why we need another website; it's so similar to the common app."

Senior Andres Caamal said, "I found out about Naviance when I went to the first college guidance class.

"I kind of get it. It surprised me that we have to change from written work to sending everything though the computer. It's kind of

bad since I barely go on my computer in the first place.

"The college process is still the same. It just keeps your hand from cramping up since you're not writing. Knowing seniors, I think they should adapt quickly," said Caamal.

Senior Alex Woods said, "I think Naviance is a great tool. The whole

system surprises me because it is so convenient. It makes it easier for teachers to keep track of how many recommendations they have to write and it helps to keep students organized. I do not dislike anything about Naviance. If you have any problems, one of the guidance counselors can usually solve them easily."



Senior Marissa Sblendorio will do her college applications online this year. (Photos by Monish Pahilajani)

## Student Council introduces a buddy system

By Deanna Mayo '14

Student Council has begun organizing Molloy's first Junior/Senior-Frosh Buddy program this fall and Moderator Ms. Kathy Loughran said it's off to a good start despite a few glitches.

Through this program, frosh can be matched up with junior or senior

volunteers who will spend time with their buddies, showing them the ropes of Molloy, answering questions and encouraging them to get involved in school activities.

At first, the program was only open to seniors, but there was a need for more volunteers which resulted in the addition of juniors.

"When the seniors found out about this idea, they were in love with it, but there are 11 freshman homerooms and 10 senior homerooms," Ms. Loughran said.

The program, which was approved by the Administration last spring, has attracted about 120 junior and senior volunteers with still more that want to join.

Senior Lena Orfanos knows it is hard to adjust to a new school and wants to help her buddy get acclimated. "I would give my frosh buddy tips such as how to avoid having a freshman backpack," she said. "It would kind of be like Ned's Declassified School Survival Guide."

Senior Christopher Guevara said he got involved in order to feel like an older sibling to a frosh. He's looking forward to it, since he's

never been one.

"I hope that the program becomes an established program at Molloy," he said. "It will probably be perfect in about two or three years."

Student Council members have gone to frosh homerooms to inform them about the program.

Frosh Jessica Szymeczek, who said older Stanners have been nice and easy to get along with, would like to join the program because her buddy could help her get involved in clubs and activities.

Frosh Ray Maurer, who won't join because it has been easy for him to adjust to Molloy, said the program is still a good way to get advice and help with school.

Ms Loughran said its goal, "is to create more of a family feel in the school."



Frosh Margarita Lopez, left, with her senior buddy Sandy Zaw

# Molloy will miss Christian's laugh

Molloy lost a member of the Stanner family on Sept. 28.

Christian Ponce was a fighter up until his last breath, never giving up despite the many challenges he faced. Christian was truly a warrior despite having lost his battle with cancer.

Every single person who met him was inspired by his courageous spirit and enormous heart.

His trademark laugh is something his friends will never forget.

He lived a good life, even though it was cut too short.

As a community of students, teachers and staff who have faith, Stanners believe God had his reasons for taking Christian so soon.

Born on Feb. 7, 1995, Christian Ponce came to Molloy in the fall of 2009 as a member of the Class of 2013.

He withdrew from school during his sophomore year because of his illness but in his time here, he was a loyal and trustworthy friend with an amazing talent to put a smile on anyone's face.

His capacity to love and accept others is something from which we can learn.

Junior Rebecca Rivera first met Christian two years ago in Homeroom 1K.

"I really got to know him later on when I started to hang around Davin (Chaltu) and Elijah (Castillo)," Rivera said. "They always called him 'Paco' and when I asked why, Davin said, 'He just looks like a Paco.'"

"What I'll remember most about Paco was his laugh. It was so cute and funny that I would laugh not at the joke, but at his laugh. I used to always try to imitate it.

"We had a great time at the

Halloween Dance last year. After he was taken out of school, I didn't see him as often; however, he was always trying to keep in contact with us. A group of us met in June for a nice lunch at his house.

"Paco really was a great kid, so full of life and laughter. He never let the fact that he had cancer bring him down. It gave him motivation to make everyday count," Rivera said.

The loss of a classmate should make us examine our own lives and ask if, like Christian, we are making every day count by striving to reach our fullest potential, for we never know what tomorrow holds.

Whenever we think of Christian now, we are reminded of a song by the band Jimmy Eat World:

"And if you were with us tonight, we'd sing to you just one more time. A song for a heart so



Christian Ponce

big, that God wouldn't let live. May Angels lead you in."

Christian Ponce: Requiescat in pace.

-- Manpreet Sachdev '13 and Sameera Kassim '13

## Why you dress up as a ghost on Halloween

It's that time of year again when the leaves begin to fall, the days get cooler, and the nights are longer.

During the month of October these three factors combine to create the perfectly spooky atmosphere that makes Halloween such a great night, no matter what your age.

Children love the idea of collecting free candy while dressed as creatures of the night.

Teenagers who are too old for trick-or-treating still have fun telling ghost stories, watching horror films, attending costume parties, and scaring their friends.

Adults get in on the fun by decorating their houses or giving out candy dressed in costume.

But where do these classic traditions come from?

Like many beloved holidays, Halloween traditions stem from pre-Christian traditions.

Halloween originates with the Celts who lived in the United Kingdom, Ireland, and France.

The Celts celebrated the new year on Nov. 1 because it marked the end of their harvest season and the beginning of winter, a time associated with death.

They believed Oct. 31, which they called Samhain (pronounced sow-in), was the day when the barrier between the worlds of the living and the dead was weakest, allowing ghosts and spirits to cross over to cause mischief.

The Celts lit bonfires and left offerings of food to appease these fearsome otherworldly beings and disguised themselves in animal skins to blend in with their



Illustration by Michelle Rondon '12

livestock and avoid harm.

When the Romans conquered Great Britain in the first century A.D., their harvest festival customs merged with those of the Celts.

The most popular of these Roman customs involved apples, sacred to Pomona, the harvest goddess. Many Halloween games, particularly bobbing for apples, can be traced to these festivals.

When Christianity came to the British Isles, the Church tried to discourage the celebration of Samhain by convincing the Celts that the spirits of Oct. 31 were satanic hallucinations and that the Druid priests were devil worshippers.

The Church replaced Samhain with All Saints' Day, also called All Hallows' Day or Halloween.

Oct. 31 came to be known as All Hallows' Eve, and eventually shortened to Halloween.

The most well-known Halloween tradition, trick-or-treating, has several origins.

Some believe it stemmed from the English celebration of All Souls Day, when children went around town promising to say prayers for the souls of the dead in exchange for "soul cakes."

Others believe trick-or-treating comes from an ancient Irish practice where peasants would go door to door on the eve of Samhain asking for donations in the name of Muck Olla, a

mysterious being who'd take revenge on anyone not making a generous donation.

Early Halloween celebrations took the form of "play parties," where neighbors gathered after the harvest to tell ghost stories, sing, and dance.

Irish immigrants, arriving after the potato famine of 1847, made Halloween popular in America.

Parties became ways for adults and children to celebrate the day; however, because parents were encouraged to remove anything "frightening" or "grotesque" from celebrations, Halloween became more of an autumnal celebration.

It wasn't until the 1920's and 30's that Halloween began to look like the holiday we know now.

It's rather amazing how many of Halloween's original traditions have survived and that we are still wary of ghosts and spirits thousands of years after the Celts first starting wearing animal skins on Oct. 31.

—Kirsten E. Paulson '13

## THE STANNER

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# Juniors are invited to AM Halloween Dance

By Julia Antignani '14 and Matthew Spataro '14

The Student Activities Committee [SAC] will hold its annual Halloween Dance, which for the first time will be open to juniors as well as frosh and sophomores, at 7 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 28 in the Cafeteria.

While students can choose not to come to the dance in costume, they are encouraged by SAC members to wear costumes to kick off Halloween weekend.

A costume contest will award prizes for the best boy costume, best girl costume and best group costume, as judged by senior SAC members.

SAC Moderator Mr. Pat Flynn said the Halloween Dance has been popular at Molloy since it began.

"Usually dances with themes are popular," he said.

Mr. Flynn said the dance is a great way for underclass students to make new friends.

"The Halloween Dance is the first dance at Molloy for the frosh, so they get excited about it," he said. "The kids get to dress up and win prizes, making it a lot of fun."

While the Halloween Dance is an annual success, SAC has had trouble interesting students in

attending other dances during the school year.

Mr. Flynn said it's possible SAC will try to sponsor "a dance in February around Valentine's Day but interest must be shown. Often times, dances were canceled because not enough tickets were sold."

Sophomore Daniella Francescetti said, "Even though I love the Halloween Dance, I would like to see more dances hosted by Molloy."

Led by seniors Karla Hernandez, Zulay Scottborgh, Isabel Mendez, and Claudia Korzeniecki, Mr. Flynn said SAC is doing the best it can to make the 2011 Halloween Dance a success.

"We hope to get at least 400 kids come," said Mr. Flynn, which would be more than half of all the frosh and sophomores at Molloy.

Most sophomores interviewed had nothing but good things to say about last year's dance.

Sophomore Kiran Chand recommends that every frosh attend this year.

"Even the quietest kids [should go]," she said, adding that it's a chance for them to "come out of their shells and have fun!"

Sophomores Aerin Toskas and Rebecca Wagner said they will go



Sophomore Anna Poulakas and her werewolf friend were just two of the many students in costume at last year's Halloween Dance in the Cafeteria. (File Photo)

to the dance as "Thing 1" and "Thing 2" in a 6-person "Thing" group.

They said they loved the dance last year and hope this year's frosh love it just as much as they did.

# College reps increase Molloy visits

By Alyssa Boller '12

The buzz of the fall college frenzy is echoing throughout Molloy.

With over 2,000 U.S. colleges and universities to consider, choosing the right one is a decision that will have an impact on students for the rest of their lives.

For the seniors, it's a buzz they can't escape. Juniors are just starting to hear it.

For sophomores, the sound is far, far away while frosh are still trying to adjust to Molloy.

But the Molloy College Guidance Dept. believes it's never too early to start thinking about choosing a college and it is trying to help Stanners as much as possible with the confusing process.

This year college representatives seem to be streaming into Molloy as more than 30 college representatives so far have come to talk to students with 18 more coming next month.

Visits will continue throughout the year with a majority coming in the next few months and in the spring.

"All Molloy is trying to do is increase the number of schools students know about," College Guidance Counselor Mr. Ted

McGuinness said. "College reps give accurate information that comes directly from the college. They provide important information about the campus, the school and the tuition rate and scholarships.

"One advantage of speaking to a college rep face to face is that most of the time these reps will also be the people reading your applications and might increase the student's chance of getting into the school," Mr. McGuinness said.

Stanners are interested in hearing from these college reps as over 30 students went to NYU's presentation and 60 went to hear about the Macaulay Honors program offered by CUNY.

Senior Kristina Atienza saw a presentation for the University of Scranton.

"I went to see the presentation because I was interested in the school and had heard that sometimes going to a rep visit can help you in the admissions process," she said. "I was able to gain more information about campus life and the school. Although it did not make Scranton my top choice, it made me slightly more interested in the school.

"I intend to talk with other reps from schools that I am interested in because it is more informative to talk to the reps than to just read facts about the school from their brochures," Atienza said

Seniors Ashley Esposito and Agnieszka Czaja said the college reps answered any questions they had and gave better insight into the school, student life and what made their school different from all the other universities.

Mr. McGuinness advises all students to go hear what a college rep has to say even if they don't think that they are interested in attending that school.

Also new this year is Molloy sponsoring trips to campuses, as a group of students visited Saint Michael's College in Vermont on Columbus Day weekend.

"The trip exposed students to life at Saint Michael's," said Mr. McGuinness. "The school reached out to Molloy to set up this tour because they were interested in Molloy students. The trip was a positive experience; the students learned a lot about the school and the school was very impressed by Molloy's students."

Senior Thalia Guzman visited

Saint Michael's because it was a chance to get a first hand glimpse of college life, something she said you can't experience through viewing books and websites.

"The campus was small with a lot of green space, surrounded by a rural area with a small city only a few miles away," she said. "The trip was a lot of fun and going with a group of Stanners made the experience better.

"I have already visited several campuses in New York and Boston but after this experience I will be looking at similar overnight visits and multicultural programs at other colleges. I think the experience was great in giving all of us an idea of what we like and what we don't like in a college campus. For example, I realized I like the traditional green campus more than an urban campus.

"We also got insightful and useful information from current students during a 'student-only' question and answer. I think the trip was very successful and there should be various trips like this in the future," she said.

Mr. McGuinness hopes to offer more trips like this to students in the future.

# 1F finishes first for frosh field day



Photos by Allison Hartney '14 & Joane Capistrano '14

## By Sarah Stiglianese '14

Homeroom 1F was the winner of Molloy's annual Freshman Field Day on Sept. 30, which was an exciting day for the Class of 2015.

The victory of 1F gave Mr. Bill Niklaus his first winning homeroom in his 28 years at Molloy.

While Mr. Niklaus said he was "very proud" of his students, he admitted being "massively surprised" when 1F was announced as the winner on Oct. 3 at the frosh Walk-a-thon Assembly in the Jack Curran Gym.

Mr. Niklaus said he had no clue at the end of Field Day that 1F had won and was shocked, along with his entire homeroom, to hear the exciting news.

Meghan Lonergan said, "I had no idea that our homeroom would be walking out of there anywhere near first place. We are excited to be Mr. Niklaus' first winning homeroom."

Mr. Niklaus' approach was to allow the students to pick their own events, so that they can participate in events in which they excel.

"I really just wanted them to have fun, be laid back, and enjoy their day," Mr. Niklaus said.

And they did just that, as they emerged as champions.

Brian Lawlor suspected 1F might win because he saw his homeroom win a lot of medals but he thought thought the competition would be "super close."

He said Mr. Niklaus' winning strategy and his homeroom's spirit and enthusiasm led to victory.

"I had faith in all my homeroom classmates," Lawlor said.

Frosh who were not members of the winning team also had fun.

Julianna Mugnolo, of 1G, who placed second in the Basketball Knockout, loved that there were so many different events for everyone.

Matthew Fanizza, of 1C, who placed fourth in the Boys Long Jump despite it being his first try at the event, said it was a "fun and new experience."

Jessica Syzmecek, of 1K, who participated in the Girls Long Jump, had a great time cheering on and talking to all her new friends and spending time with her homeroom.

Grace Crockett's only complaint was "not being able to watch all of the events and activities."

Although she was pretty sure she came in last place, Deanna Aliperti of 1A, still had a great time in the wheelbarrow race and then cheering and laughing with all of her friends.

She believes her homeroom really bonded during Field Day.

Here are the results:

**Team scores:** 1. 1F, 59 points; 2. 1B, 49.5; 3. 1H, 47; 4. 1L, 40.5; 5. 1G, 33; 6. 1D, 28; 7. 1A, 26; 8. 1J, 27; 9. 1E, 21.5; 10. 1C, 16.5.

**History:** 1. 1D (Luca Graci, Joseph Gilfeather, Gerard Fernandez); 2. 1G (Tom McCarthy, James McGuire, Janet Jarain); 3. 1A (Jafar Ali, Isabelle Artes);

4. 1J (Timothy Safos, Joseph Schauer, Reah Rajmangal); 5. 1C (Robert Dittus, Kaitlin Evans, Michael Dillon).

**Chess:** 1. Alina Obruchnikova, 1H; 2. (tie) Julian Lipovac, 1F, and Joemer Ramos, 1J; 4. Sebastian Lipovac, 1F; 5. Daniel Ramirez, 1J.

**Spoon Relay:** 1. 1F (Brian Lawlor, Meghan Lonergan); 2. 1D (Joseph Guzzardo, Tahina Felisca); 3. 1C (Calogero Cutaia, Marina Cregan); 4. 1L (Taylor Vegh, Taryn Tyson).

**Potato-Sack Relay:** 1. 1K (Rajbir Singh, Nicholas Sena); 2. 1B (Mary Serene Carino, Angelica Carpenter); 3. 1A (Erika Agustin, Phillip Barsamian); 4. 1H (Cynthia Navarro, Stephanie Nonailada); 5. 1L (Gabriella Turk, Taylor Vegh).

**Wheelbarrow Race:** 1. 1B (Joshua Chico, Gabriella Bruno); 2. 1F (Michael Look, Vincenzo Maiello); 3. 1G (Niamh McGrath, Emer Moloney); 4. 1E (Hyunwoo Jeung, Rayn Lagtapon); 5. 1H (Josephine Pepa, Nicolette Perez).

**Basketball Knockout:** 1. Sebastian Cadet, 1B; 2. Julianna Mugnolo, 1G; 3. Kristin O'Grady, 1H; 4. Nicole Teta, 1K; 5. Fitzgerald Andre, 1A.

**Boys Soccer Shootout:** 1. Khafre Dugue, 1C; 2. Edwin Bolbolian, 1B; Conrad Nowowiejski, 1H; 4. Matthew Lees, 1F.

**Girls Soccer Shootout:** 1. Kimberly Chuber, 1B; 2. Anais Rodriguez, 1J; 3. Lindsay Wynne, 1L; 4. Taryn Tyson, 1L. Football Throw: 1. Nicholas Cataldo, 1B; 2. Nicholas Spadaccini, 1K; 3. Giuseppe LoDuca, 1F; 4. D'Ante Warren, 1L; 5. Anthony Baglino, 1A.

**Softball Throw:** 1. Alexandra Yule, 1L; 2. Maria Bruno, 1B; 3. Amanda Zeni, 1L; 4. Josephine Pepa, 1H; 5. Julia Greene, 1D.

**Boys 100-meters:** 1. Mark Perkins, 1H; 2. Patrick Post, 1J; 3. Ruairi Kelly, 1E; 4. Vincenzo Ferrara, 1D; 5. Timothy Burkart, 1B.

**Girls 100-meters:** 1. Deanna Lucci, 1F;

2. Kayla Rayder, 1J; 3. Kelly Grogan, 1D; 4. Diana Gorga, 1D; 5. Laura Williams, 1L.

**Boys 200-meters:** 1. William Pabitero, 1H; 2. Michael Tammaro, 1K; 3. Sean O'Connor, 1H; 4. Cesar Ponce, 1H; 5. Harminder Pathania, 1H.

**Girls 200-meters:** 1. Jessica Netto, 1H; 2. Samantha Morgan, 1G; 3. Christina Lavelle, 1F; 4. Julia Remache, 1J; 5. Kismet Tomicich, 1K.

**Boys 300-meters:** 1. Jared Lovelace, 1F; 2. Dominik Slaweta, 1K; 3. John Whelan, 1L; 4. Raphael Jafri, 1E; 5. Adrian Augustynowicz, 1A.

**Girls 300-meters:** 1. Alexandra Klesin, 1E; 2. Angelika Uszynska, 1L; 3. Kaitlyn Mahon, 1F; 4. Alexa Grabowski, 1D; 5. Katrina Antonopoulos, 1A.

**Boys 800-meters:** 1. Daniel Saczyk, 1J; 2. Christopher Ray, 1J; 3. Luke Gersh, 1D; 4. Vincent Moss, 1G; 5. Harshdeep Singh, 1K.

**Girls 800-meters:** 1. Mary Ellen Woods, 1L; 2. Michelle Armogan, 1A; 3. Mary Dugan, 1C; 4. Nicole Jimenez, 1E; 5. Camille Dupiton, 1C.

**Boys Shot Put:** 1. Perez, 1H; 2. Sepic, 1K; 3. Capp, 1B; 4. Giannelli, 1D; 5. Meditz, 1G.

**Girls Shot Put:** 1. 1. Montgomery, 1G; 2. Ajoku, 1A; 3. Hanna, 1D; 4. Lercar, 1F; 5. Kung, 1E.

**Boys Long Jump:** 1. Jeffrey Paljevic, 1H; 2. Brandon Simoni, 1K; 3. D Velazquez, 1L; 4. Matthew Fanizza, 1C; 5. John Shaughnessy, 1K.

**Girls Long Jump:** 1. Aryn McClure, 1G; 2. Tara Maguire, 1F; 3. Katie Lapidus, 1E; 4. Vincenza Maiello, 1F; 5. Shannon Scott, 1J.

**Boys High Jump:** 1. Anthony Baglino, 1A; 2. Patrick Jakubowski, 1E; 3. Chris Mesa, 1G; 4. (tie) Justin Esposito, 1C, and Roy Colter, 1B.

**Girls High Jump:** 1. Tara Maguire, 1F; 2. (tie) Stephanie Yost, 1L, and Hayley Kordisch, 1E; 4. Isabella Arikian, 1A; 5. Julia Watters, 1L.

# Frosh enjoyed first Esopus retreat

By Robert Dittus '15 and Liana Liang '15

The first Freshman Retreat of the year brought 76 frosh, 12 upperclass leaders, nine faculty, and two alumni to the Marist Brothers Retreat House in Esopus during the weekend of Sept. 30.

Bro. John Raeihle, who was in charge of the retreat, said, "The freshmen were a great group to be with over the weekend. They seemed to enjoy being there and I enjoyed being there with them."

The first Freshman Retreat is usually held on Walk-a-thon weekend but due to the busy schedule at Esopus, Molloy had to move the date.

"Having the retreat after Freshman Field Day was a complete coincidence, but I think everything worked out quite well," said Bro. John, who added the only exception being the frosh who injured an ankle during the Field Day and had to drop out.

Although it was rainy and chilly, the frosh had fun.

Mr. Jim Sheldon gave a historic tour of the property.

The frosh expressed their spirituality and creativity through singing, drawing, acting, and carving pumpkins.

Even a deer had fun, feasting on carved pumpkins that were put outside during the night.

"The group was cooperative," Bro. John said. "They responded well to the theme, which was to accept yourself, others, and God. They also enjoyed making posters and acted-out a commercial or radio jingle that corresponded with the theme."

The frosh listened to speeches about accepting themselves.

"[Junior] Eddie Krische gave a fantastic speech about acceptance despite it being his first time," said Bro. John.

Most frosh had a great time and couldn't wait to go again.

"The best thing was that I got to spend the weekend with my peers," said Amanda Milevoi.

Cynthia Navarro said she went

on retreat "to learn more about Molloy and meet new friends. I expected it to have more games and be like Freshman Camp" but she liked the retreat and recommended it to other frosh.

Deidre Lydon also enjoyed the retreat.

"I really expected it to be based just on Catholic spirituality but it really helped me accept myself and others, which I really enjoyed," she said.

Sebastian Chamorro said, "I think the retreat was fun. I expected it to be just the way it was. I felt more open to others than usual and felt that I could let out secrets without consequence or shame in the future. I also enjoyed the teamwork. The location and counselors were amazing."

Stefani Lercara went on retreat, "to make more friends and meet new people since I didn't go to Freshman Camp. It was kind of different from what I expected. I made more friends than I thought I would and I was surprised by

how friendly the upperclassmen were."

Vincenzo Ferrara said, "I really enjoyed playing Flag and carving pumpkins at 12 in the morning."

Some of the frosh girls had to endure a swarm of wasps that invaded their dorm, which resulted in both fear and laughs but no injuries.

"We just saw two wasps in the light and quickly killed them and thought that was it," said Deanna Aliperti. "We turned our backs for five seconds and suddenly a whole swarm of them came out and flew everywhere. By the end of the night, we had to move into a different dorm, but we managed to wipe out most of them."

Catherine Marrero said, "It was scary but nice to see the teamwork and effort of trying to deal with them."

The next Frosh Retreat will be on March 23-25 and will cost \$130. Some girls who were on the waiting list for the first retreat are guaranteed a place for the second.

# Seniors talk to parents at orientation

By Joseph Estevez '12

Seven seniors from Ms. Mary Pat Gannon's Public Speaking class volunteered to become the first students in Molloy history to speak at the Freshmen Parents Orientation.

Seniors Alex Bieber, Thomas Dreyer, Gracie Esposito, Kathleen Loftus, Ashley Mayer, Alex Woods, and Nicholas Yurisak made history on Sept. 29 in the Jack Curran Gym.

Principal Bro. Thomas Schady and Assistant Principal for Students Mr. Ken Auer made the request for student speakers because they felt it would be more interesting for the parents to hear students talk rather than school administrators.

The seven seniors used their own words to explain to the audience the way Molloy operates.

"We wanted to showcase our best assets, our students," Ms. Gannon said.

Esposito, who began the event with a prayer, said that speaking to more than hundred adults wasn't intimidating.

"I actually had a lot of fun!" she said. "I love talking in front of a lot

of people. I was nervous at first, but I calmed down after a while. I think I did fairly well reading the prayer."

Woods, who spoke to the parents about Ms. Mary Ann Safrey's role as assistant principal for academics, said she volunteered because, "I wanted to get the experience [of speaking to a large crowd]."

The seniors had a week to prepare for the night with four rehearsals and earned extra credit in their Public Speaking class.

Bro. Thomas and Assistant Principal Sister Elizabeth Bickar praised the students' performance and Ms. Gannon said, "The speakers were excellent."

The seven seniors said this experience, as well as the Public Speaking course as a whole, has helped them improve in their speaking skills.

The Administration has not decided if students will speak at the 2012 Freshmen Parents Orientation.

"I hope this will be a standard part [of the event]," said Ms. Gannon.



## Activities Fair creates a buzz!

Junior Connor Tuohy, above, signs up for a club at Molloy's first Activities Fair in the Jack Curran Gym on Oct. 3. Senior Adrienne Zhou, left, invites students to join the Book Club. (Photos by Monish Pahilajani '13)

# NHS inducts 127 members

By Roberto Bertolini '13

Archbishop Molloy inducted 127 seniors into its Louis E. Willett Memorial Chapter of the National Honor Society on Oct. 18 in a ceremony in the Jack Curran Gym after a new selection process was implemented by the new NHS moderator, Bro. Eugene Birmingham.

Bro. Eugene, who took over the job from Mr. Brian Kelly, employed a faculty committee to review the 135 student applications and select the inductees.

The committee consisted of Ms. Shannon Winters, Mr. Ed Cameron, Ms. Dyana Christie, Bro. Kevin Brogan and Bro. Robert Andrews.

The 127 inductees were bestowed this honor by fulfilling four major criteria during their first three years at Molloy: maintaining a 93 cumulative average, showing leadership by setting positive examples through consistent involvement in a school activity; performing community service by volunteering to help others both inside and outside of school; and maintaining a very good disciplinary record.

Students qualified for the service criteria by working with school

groups such as Lifespire or Briarwood Shelter or working at soup kitchens, nursing homes, or in their parishes or at camps for the deaf or mentally handicapped.

At the induction ceremony, new NHS members were presented with certificates and the four elected NHS officers lit four colored candles representing the four qualities of NHS members: leadership, character, scholarship, and service.

President Adrienne Zhou lit a purple candle representing leadership; Vice President Maverick Alzate lit the blue candle representing character; Secretary Stephen Eng lit the gold candle representing scholarship and Treasurer Paulina Stefanowski lit the green candle representing service.

Eng was "ecstatic" when he found out he was elected as one of the NHS officers by his peers and is looking forward to working with the other officers organizing new events and activities during the year.

Bro. Eugene is expecting great things from this year's National Honor Society members and is in the process of planning many service projects.

"We are working in collaboration

with Campus Ministry and Student Council, as well as Bro. Daniel O'Riordan," said Bro. Eugene.

Members will also be taking part in volunteer work at community centers and hospitals.

Justyna Gawrys said being a NHS member gives her "more opportunity to volunteer and give back to the community. It also looks good for colleges."

Another new member, Lauren Miller hopes NHS will sponsor more activities in the school this year and that they all are successful.

Here are the NHS members from the Class of 2012:

Lauren Alessandro; Marcus Alvarez; Maverick Alzate; Anil Angad; Andreea Arama; Alexandra Balan; Olivia Balog; James Botwina; Wilfrido Castillo; Christina Cepeda; Jeffrey Cheng; Elizabeth Chien; Cara Chow; Brandon Concepcion; Jonathan Cortez; Stephanie Cruz; Agnieszka Czaja;

Kristina D'Angelo; Camille De Vera; Katelyn Dial; Jackelyne Diaz; Alexandra DiDonato; Alyssa Dolan; Terrence Donohue; Krissa Mae Dumalo; Stephen Eng; Jordi Escorcia; Ashley Esposito; John Esposito; Leanne Fahey; Claudia Fernandes; Melissa Fesler; Vincent Fiore;

Michaela Gallagher; Justyna Gawrys; Theresa Gee; Christine Georghiou; Jamie Giuntini; Vasiliki Gliagias; Victoria Goldbach; Maggie Goreczny;

Joseph Guzman; Thalia Guzman; Thomas Hackimer; Victoria Hanczyk; Myrna Hanna; Melissa Jo Hernandez; Jennifer Hwu;

Christina John; Kaitlin Karcher; Kayla Karsten; Lauren Kelly; Nicole Kelly; Claudia Korzeniecki; Lorenzo Laing; Natrisha Latchman; Anastasia Limogiannis; Kathleen Loftus; Maria Macchiarulo; Simranjit Mangat; Nicole Marino; Anthony Marrocco; Marisa Mederos; Shannon Megale; Isabel Mendez; Liss Mendez; John Meyer; Joseph Mikhaeil; Lauren Miller; Jessica Montes; John Moravek; Leanne Motylenski; Eleni Mutaopulos;

Matthew Niewinski; Monika Nowak; Julian Olbinski; Stephanie Olcese; Marilena Orfanos; Maria Palmeri; Suzanna Petot; Erik Petschauer; Nicole Pineda; Edward Pizzo; Mia Polizzotto; Melanie Pylarinos; Bianca Quiceno; Edwin Ramos; Sean Ramzan; Joanne Raptis; Marco Rodrigues; Sergio Rodriguez; James Rogers; Jenna Rohrssen; Michelle Rondon; Margaret Rooney; Julia Rosa; Katherine Rosero; Robert Rossi; Andrew Rozo; Stephanie Rupe; HoSung Ryoo;

Christa Sankar; Michael Sapienza; Pawel Sawicki; Zulay Scottborgh; Thomas Seubert; Pooja Shaam; Michael Siconolfi; Sursehaj Singh; Jarrett Sledge; Sam Spoto; Paulina Stefanowski; Raymond Sukhdeo; Victoria Tan; Joseph Tavera; Mareena Thottam; Julian Tobias;

Niles Uy; Gabriella Vasquez; Ryan Vesey; Samantha Walker; Crystal Wong; Alexandra Woods; Nicole Yoo; Samson Zachariah; Adrienne Zhou.

## Stanners walked to sit (on bleachers)

By Stephanie Bonanno '13 and Jaclyn Eng '13

Molloy's 19th annual Walk-a-thon took place on Friday Oct. 21 with the goal of raising enough

money to build new bleachers in the Jack Curran Gym and install a new lighting and sound system in the Theater.

"The bleachers desperately need

to be replaced," said Mrs. Maureen Kelly, the Walk-a-thon organizer. "They have been here since 1957 [when Molloy first opened]."

The fundraising goal per student is \$80, the same as last year.

"It gets students involved to raise money for their school without raising the tuition," Mrs. Kelly said.

If all four grade levels reach their fund-raising goals, the Walk-a-thon school holiday will be on Friday, Dec. 9, giving Stanners a four-day weekend as the school will be closed on Dec. 8 for the Feast of the Immaculate Conception.

However, this year, unlike previous years, individual students who did not participate in the Walk-a-thon will not have Dec. 9 off.

They instead will be required to come to school and be supervised by Assistant Principal for Students Mr. Ken Auer and his assistant Mr. Ed Shannon.

"Not participating means not bringing in any pledges or not walking," said Mrs. Kelly, who added that those students who were not physically capable of walking did not have to walk.

The 2011 Walk-a-thon shirts, which were "Frankenstein" green and Halloween themed, were

designed in a joint effort between Molloy President Mr. Richard Karsten and General Office staff members.

Most Stanners were looking forward to the event.

"The Walk-a-thon is always fun," junior Dennis Bizios said. "It's a great time to talk with your friends."

But while junior Ann Palathingal likes seeing the neighborhood and helping her school every year, "Sometimes it is just too much walking with no breaks."

Prizes will be awarded to the top fund-raisers, including free tuition for a year for the student with highest amount in pledges.

Some new prizes this year include tickets to a Taylor Swift concert and to the Radio City Christmas Show, and gift cards from American Eagle stores instead of the Gap.

In its 18 previous years, it has never rained on Walk-a-thon Day.

"If it rained, it would suck," junior Carina Gomez said.

But in the days leading up to the event, Mrs. Kelly was confident Molloy would continue to defy the odds.

"It has never rained and it never will," she said.



Junior Patricia Bober showcases this year's lean green Halloween-themed Walk-a-thon t-shirt. (Photo by Monish Pahilajani '13)

# 6 new dancers pass team tryouts

By Isabella Mezzettone '15

Molloy's Dance team held tryouts in the Theater on Sept. 20 and call-backs a week later. When the auditions were over, 16 of the 42 girls who tried out earned a spot on the team.

Dance Team Moderator Ms. Liz Murdocca, who expanded the team by one from last year, when only 15 made the final cut, was impressed by the three frosh who made the team.

"It's the first time in years I've had so many freshmen on the team but they were excellent," she said.

Ms. Murdocca said to earn a spot on the team, a dancer had to have a good technique, show good stage presence, and be enthusiastic.

The 16 who made it were seniors Lauren Alessandro, Andreea Arama, Victoria Lugo, Samantha Nostramo, Meredith Peterson, juniors Micaela Modica, Anna Maria Musso, Melissa Neumann, Samantha Paez, Joanna Pantelides, sophomores Bea Cruz, Emily Lewis, Ashley Vascellaro, frosh Savannah Coppola, Flora Ho, and Maria Troia.

"During the first day of tryouts, we had to learn a mini-routine to 'Moves Like Jagger,'" said Cruz. "It was more of a hip-hop/jazzy routine. Then we had to perform it in smaller groups.

"During callback auditions, we had to learn a whole new choreo again, but this time it was lyrical/contemporary kind of dance. That's where you find everyone's technical abilities!



The Dance Team performs for guests at last year's Open House. (Photo by Adrienne Zhou '12)

"Auditions were much longer this year and that's how I knew competition was tougher. The callbacks were held twice which usually isn't the case. So I practiced every single day at home. My mom was my coach and by the time the callback auditions came, I was well prepared," she said.

Those who didn't make the cut could join the Dance Club.

Ten dancers who were on the team last year still had to audition to maintain their place and they impressed Ms. Murdocca with how much they improved their technique during the summer.

She said the new six team

members were very skilled.

Cruz was impressed with the talent displayed by her 15 teammates.

"Everybody at tryouts was very impressive, especially during the callback auditions. That's why I was so scared! I realized how talented everyone was."

Cruz, a returning member of the team who has been dancing since she was 6-years-old, said, "I was actually really nervous for tryouts but that's just how I am at every audition. It's just so nervewracking!

"But most especially this year, because I knew the competition was much tougher. I prepared for

it. I danced every single weekday during the summer at nine in the morning. It wasn't all fun but it was most definitely worth it," she said.

Cruz attends classes at Broadway Dance Center. "I basically spend my entire Saturday there," she said.

Now that she has made the team, Cruz is, "looking forward to all the basketball games and some competitions we've talked about, as well as other performances.

"Everybody on the team is so great. I look up to each and every one of them for motivation and confidence. I love them so much!" she said.

# I A.M. Green makes a difference

By Annmarie Gaglio '13 and Rashanna Seymour '13

Molloy's environmental club, I A.M. Green, had its annual beach cleanup in Rockaway rained out on Oct. 14 but it was rescheduled for Oct. 28.

These trips began four years ago when club moderator Mr. Chris Dougherty was approached by a student with the idea.

Since then, the trip has been really popular with club members.

Mr. Dougherty is always impressed with the response he gets from club members when he asks for volunteers.

Junior Megan Chan will be going to her first beach cleanup this month.

"I was inspired by my friends to join," said Chan.

The cleanup is sponsored by The American Littoral Society (ALS), whose mission is dedicated to the conservation of coastlines.

Twenty-seven club members will head to Rockaway on a school bus on Oct. 28 to clean 10 blocks of beach between Beach 106th and 116th Streets, picking up any litter they find.

As they pick up the litter, students will tally what they find and the numbers will be sent to ALS for its research.

Junior Julian Leston, who has been a member of the club for two years, expects to find a lot of cigarette butts and plastic bottles on the beach.

In the past, the club has found bottles, cans, and shockingly, 2,000 cigarette butts on the beach.

Mr. Dougherty believes that the number of cigarette butts might change this year due to the implementation of the new New York City law banning smoking in several types of outside public areas, including beaches.

The weirdest thing found in the sand?

"A dead bird and box of rancid

burgers," said Mr. Dougherty.

Non-recyclable garbage that is collected is thrown away at the beach.

Paper, plastic bottles, and cans are brought back to school for recycling.

Mr. Dougherty hopes that students who go on the trip will learn about "how to make a difference."

The next club event will be participating in an e-waste event to recycle electronic devices that cannot be thrown away in the regular garbage collections.

The club is also looking forward to its annual American Museum of Natural History and Shake Shack trip later this year, a tradition started by former club moderator Mr. Charley McKenna.

Students who would like to join the club can sign up by e-mailing IAMGreen90@gmail.com and including "JOIN" in the subject line or attending the sign up event later this month.



# JV Volleyball starts season at 5-0

By Jennifer Desamero '14 and Christiane Crawford '14

The Junior Varsity Volleyball team started off the season on a great note, winning its first five games despite losing eight players from last year's team to the Varsity.

Key members of last year's team, juniors Brittany Banker, Dana Galizia, Kinga Grzybowski, Lauren Pagan, Amanda Price, Victoria Taibe and sophomores Emily Rabot and Katherine Kilkenny are now Varsity players.

They have been replaced by a new JV starting six of sophomore Claire LaVelle and junior Jessica Chen as setters, sophomore Mary Lynch and frosh Bobbi Collins as middle backs, and sophomore Erica Byrne and frosh Ally Klesin as outside hitters.

The first players off the bench are sophomore middle back Aileen Lukis, sophomore outside hitter Liz Prado, and frosh middle back Mary Dugan.

"So far we're undefeated and we could probably play even better because we just haven't reached [our full potential] yet," Byrne said.

Klesin said, "The team's

strengths are definitely our hitters and servers."

Athletic Director Mike McCleary said the three most impressive victories of the season so far have been over Saint Francis Prep, Mary Louis, and Fontbonne Hall.

"The games at Prep are so intense," said Byrne. "We won the first set, lost the second one, but we made a comeback in the third set and won the game all around."

The players have grown closer as a team on their way to an undefeated record. "All the girls play so well," Klesin said. "I love working with them."

Said Byrne, "I'm only a freshman, so I'm just really excited to be here. We're all good friends and we always try our best and support each other."

Assistant coach Ms. Rose Ruesing is very confident in the team and is optimistic about doing well in the playoffs, which begin on the last week of October.

The Varsity, meanwhile, is also off to a great start posting a 8-1 record, highlighted by its first victory over St. Francis Prep since the 2006 Brooklyn-Queens title game.

Molloy defeated Prep in a dramatic five-set match, 14-25, 27-



Frosh Katie Lapidus gets ready to serve the ball in the Marsloe Gym for the JV Volleyball team. (Photo by Blue & White Yearbook)

25, 25-22, 18-25, 25-11 on Oct. 18, handing the Terriers their first regular season loss in conference play in six years.

Price played a key role in the victory, serving on eight straight winning points for the Stanners in the decisive fifth game.

## Sophs finish 2nd at B-Q title meet



Sophomore Molly Sasso

Patrick Cashin finished third at the 2011 CHSAA Sophomore Boys Cross Country Championship on Oct. 12 over the 4,000-meter course in Van Cortlandt Park to lead Molloy to second place behind Bishop Loughlin.

Shannon Lavin led the way with a fifth place finish in the Sophomore Girls Championship as Molloy placed second behind St. Francis Prep.

The Boys and Girls Varsity and Frosh CHSAA Brooklyn-Queens Championships will be held Oct. 29 with the city championships set for Nov. 15, all in Van Cortlandt Park in the Bronx.

Here are Molloy's results:

### Sophomore Boys

3. Patrick Cashin, 15:07.12; 7. Raymond Henry, 15:19.22; 8. Branden Warders, 15:24.03; 9. Sean Ryan, 15:40.86; 12. Justin McBride, 16:17.06.

**Team scores:** 1. Loughlin, 35 points, 2. Molloy, 39; 3. Xaverian, 59; 4. McClancy, 122; 5. Ford, 166.

### Sophomore Girls

5. Shannon Lavin, 19:34.01; 7. Molloy Sasso, 20:08.33; 9. Katarina Vucetic, 20:30.58; 10. Cara Loftus, 20:41.12; 12. Amanda Pape, 21:11.57.

**Team Scores:** 1. St. Francis Prep, 35; 2. Molloy, 43; 3. Mary Louis, 78.

## Scibelli, Woods tops at Fun Run

By Anna Poulakas '14

Molloy alumni dominated the five-kilometer race through Briarwood at the 24th Annual Andrew Harvey Memorial Fun Run on Oct. 2.

The three top finishers were Tyler Bay, a member of the Class of 2011 who finished in 17 minutes and 17 seconds, Peter Kramer from the Class of 2010 who finished second in 17:22 and Joseph Mayer, a 2009 graduate who finish third in 17:31.

The top student finishers in the 5K race were two members of Molloy's Varsity Cross Country team.

Junior Dillon Scibelli was the first boy across the finish line and senior Kathleen Woods was the first girl.

Fun Run organizer Mr. Frank Gambino said the run, which was open to current students, alumni, family and friends, drew about 150 participants.

The \$20 entry fee for runners over the age of 12 went to the Molloy scholarship fund.

A free t-shirt was given to all who participated.

Mr. Gambino said the real

purpose of the run is not to raise money but to enjoy a day in memory of Andrew Harvey, a Stanner who was killed in an accident as a junior.

Mr. Gambino said he was proud of the current and former Molloy students who did well in the race.

The day featured three separate events, a 50-yard dash for anyone age 12 and under in which everyone got a prize, a one-mile run for which the top 10 runners received medals, and the 5K Run for which the top three finishers received plaques and the top three male and female runners in each age group got medals.

Frosh Timothy Burkart enjoyed running in the 5K race and said that, for the most part, most of the runners took the race seriously.

The day started at 8 a.m. with a mass in the Jack Curran Gym that was attended by members of the Harvey family as well as by all the runners participating in the event.

After the race, everyone gathered in Molloy's cafeteria for refreshments and the award ceremony.