

# The Stanner

Vol. 52, No. 5

Archbishop Molloy High School

January 2009

## Stanners play Santa in AM Toy Drive

By Courtney Klopfer '09

Molloy's annual Toy Drive last month was once again a success due to the generous contributions from students and faculty who donated a total of 1,160 toys to underprivileged children, said Campus Ministry Director Mr. Mike Germano.

The toys were distributed to children at various locations including the Briarwood Shelter, Heart Share, Catholic Charities, St. John Bread and Life, and four different area hospitals.

Mr. Germano, along with five Campus Ministry leaders, had the opportunity to deliver the toys

personally to the children at two of those four hospitals on December 20.

The toys were both donated by individuals and bought by Campus Ministry with the \$2,154 raised by Molloy homerooms.

Mr. Germano was grateful for the donations and said that it took a collaborative effort to make this year's Toy Drive among the best in Molloy's history.

After the Toy Drive ended on Dec. 15, a group of 24 students gathered in the theater for the toy sorting party.

During the party, the students sorted all of the toys donated by category and

then put them in bags to be delivered to the different groups.

Senior Mary Napolitano, who has donated a toy for each of the past four drives and has helped to sort the toys for the past two years, said, "It was fun. I was with my friends and we got a lot of work done."

Mr. Germano said it brings much

satisfaction to know that the kindness Stanners showed helped to make all of the hospitalized and disadvantaged kids' Christmases a little brighter.

Napolitano was also pleased with the outcome.

"It just shows how eager everyone is to help out and do something good," she said.



Stanners were the elves in Santa's workshop during Campus Ministry's toy sorting party in the Theater. (Photos by Ben Joson)

## Five new courses for 2009-10

By Stephanie Kotnik '09

Five new courses will be offered in the Molloy course catalogue this year, four for next year's seniors and one for next year's juniors, said Assistant Principal Sister Elizabeth Bickar.

Christianity in Film, Public Speaking, Personal Finance Management, and Practical Mathematics will be offered

### *Molloy gets seat on the Model UN Security Council*

By Arthur Peltz '09

The large turnout for the first Model UN meetings in December resulted in the club having no problem reaching its goal of sending 32 delegates to the Model UN Conference in the spring, said moderator Mr. Bill Flemen.

Mr. Flemen said the turnout was probably a result of members spreading the word that they had such a positive experience at last year's conference.

Mr. Flemen said the club offers members a very unique experience of being able to learn about and represent the interests of the countries they are

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to seniors as electives, and AP Chemistry will be offered to juniors as an alternate choice to fulfill their science requirement.

The International Law course has been dropped, Sister Elizabeth said, because "kids just stopped taking it."

Sister Elizabeth said it is unusual for so many new classes to be added to the catalogue in one year.

Typically, two or three classes are added, but teachers presented more ideas for courses this year, leading to more options for students.

All four senior courses will be offered as half year courses to fill each department's credit requirements.

AP Chemistry will be offered as an option for juniors who do not wish to take Physics or Earth Science, or to juniors who have already taken the Earth Science Regents Exam as an alternative to taking Physics.

Sister Elizabeth said the new courses are being offered to answer the needs of the students.

The Finance Management course, offered by the Social Studies Department as an alternative to taking Business Law or Economics courses, is designed to help students learn to

manage their personal finances.

Practical Mathematics, a course suggested by Mathematics Department Chairperson Ms. Jeanne Longerano, is designed to continue to be used by students after high school.

"It's very Non Scholae, Sed Vitae," said Sister Elizabeth.

Public Speaking, offered by the English Department, will serve to increase students' skills in oral presentation, a skill needed in college and in life, said Sister Elizabeth.

The Public Speaking class also helps secure Molloy's future Middle States accreditation because that organization has urged Molloy to offer students more opportunities at oral expression.

Sister Elizabeth said the process of adding courses to Molloy's course catalogue begins when the heads of each academic department meet in November to discuss what courses would most interest the students.

"This changes [each year] as students' needs change," said Sister Elizabeth.

For example, the current senior electives Intro to Film and Lit into Film are very popular, so Christianity in Film seemed an appropriate addition to the Religion Department.

Junior Alex Bello likes the idea of the new religion course.

"Memorizing names and dates can get boring," he said. "I'd rather see more of the practice of religion, so it sounds like an interesting class."

Bello also liked the idea of Practical Mathematics.

"I'll never need to know about imaginary numbers after high school," he said. "I'd rather learn something I can use."

Sophomore Christina Lucci took the Earth Science Regents Exam when she was in eighth grade, so her only junior science class option until now would have been to take Physics. So she is happy about the new course offering.

"I'd rather take AP Chem," said Lucci. "I'm taking [Chemistry] now and like it a lot."

After juniors register for courses on Feb. 6 and sophomores on March 31, Principal Bro. Roy George and Assistant Principals Sister Elizabeth, Mr. Ed Jennings and Mr. Ken Auer will decide which courses will run and which will not, based on the numbers of students enrolled in each.

"The power is in [the students'] hands," Sister Elizabeth said.

# America is changing; can Molloy?

As the American people watched Barack Obama sworn in as the first African-American President of the United States on Jan. 20, they did so with the idea that Obama's inauguration would bring about much needed change to the country.

But while change has come to Washington, will change ever come to Briarwood?

Will Archbishop Molloy High School ever see the need to change its ways the same way the United States of America has?

Let's face it. Some things will never change.

"The Godfather" will always be considered one of the best gangster movies ever.

Your mom is never going to agree to buy you a Porsche for your 17th birthday.

But some things do change.

Political ideas and moral standards and presidents change.

Eventually, some beliefs become "old-fashioned" and obsolete.

One hundred years ago, American



Illustration by Manuel Cordero

women couldn't even vote in most states, much less run for president, and no black man, no matter how qualified, would be elected to national office.

But things have changed.

Democrat Barack Obama won the presidency running against what some people called an "obsolete, old-

fashioned" Republican, John McCain.

The American people now expect things to be different.

But what are the chances that Molloy will be different in 2009?

Every year students make the same complaints and offer the same solutions to what they see as the "obsolete, old-fashioned" rules at Molloy.

Throughout the hallways, you hear Stanners complaining about teacher assistants handing out detention for various dress code violations that don't seem to make sense.

For example, I can't wrap my head around the no denim jackets rule.

Denim jackets don't scream "thug."

Denim jackets don't look bad.

Denim jackets are the best thing to wear during those intermediate months in the spring and fall.

But do you think Molloy's no-denim jacket rule will ever change?

Then there's the lateness rule.

If the school day doesn't officially start until the 8:05 a.m. class, why are Stanners penalized for walking into school at 8:01?

Do you think that rule will ever change?

Then there's the no iPod rule, which really makes no sense.

The Molloy handbook states that under no circumstances are students

## Stanners will represent China at UN conference

**Continued from page one** assigned and to do so at the actual UN Headquarters this year on May 14-16.

Last year, the cap on the number of delegates each school was allowed to have at the conference was 28, but this year the cap was raised to 32 by the UN Conference Committee, which gives more students the opportunity to participate in Model UN.

Thanks to its large delegation and the fact that it has done well at the past three Model UN Conferences, Molloy was assigned to represent China and the small Caribbean island nation of Dominica at this year's conference.

"Representing China is a big step up for us," said Mr. Flemen. "It means we will participate as a member of the Security Council and have a lot more power at the conference. It sure beats representing Eritrea."

Unfortunately, due to the club's

popularity, cuts had to be made when choosing the team, Mr. Flemen said.

Returning members were guaranteed their spots on the team while newcomers were selected by random drawing.

Mr. Flemen said the hardest thing to do was to turn away people who wanted to participate in the club because of restrictions placed by the UN conference committee.

Last year, 25 Molloy students went to the conference representing the Netherlands and Eritrea. Molloy has also represented Scotland and Greece in the past.

Mr. Flemen said junior Javed Yunus has shown a keen interest in the club this year and was very helpful in orienting new members.

Charles Paszkowski, a senior, joined the club because he wanted a Molloy activity where he could have a good experience and meet new people with similar interests.

Paszkowski said the conference in May was the best part of being in the club because members actually sit in the seats of the UN leaders and debate issues that exist throughout the world. Topping it off was a party for all UN Conference participants at a restaurant, Paszkowski said.

Before the conference, club members will research issues they will debate at the UN and write a paper discussing their country's stance on the issues, Paszkowski said.

Paszkowski would have preferred to represent the U.S.A. but, "it is mainly up to the UN Conference Committee to decide. We ended up representing China, which I am pleased with."

## Corrections

The Stanner aims for the highest level of accuracy in its stories. If you noticed an error or have a concern about a story, please send an email to Moderator Mr. Charley McKenna at: [thestanner@molloyhs.org](mailto:thestanner@molloyhs.org).

Please note the following corrections to errors made in The Stanner Vol. 52, No. 4:

Due to incorrect information on the Intergrated Science Association's flyer, the location of its annual Glass Bending Experiment was incorrect in a photo caption. It took place in the old Chem Lab.

allowed to bring iPods or any MP3 players to school.

The Administration believes that Stanners listening to music or watching a video on the way to school can be distracted from paying attention to what's really important — her or his safety.

Carrying an iPod can make you a target for robbers or prevent you from hearing that car coming.

However, Stanners are allowed to bring cell phones to school and cell phones pose the same safety risks to students that iPods do! Cell phones can make you a target of criminals and distract you from what's happening around you just as much as iPods can.

Do you think that rule will ever change?

The change that an overwhelming majority of students would like to see is for Molloy to adopt a dress code that includes polo shirts.

"Polos for all!" is the cry of students who don't understand why only seniors in their final semester in school are allowed to wear polo shirts.

Now, since Molloy has a new school sweater, perhaps there is a slight chance this change might occur.

But even so, do you really think this rule will ever change?

Some friends of mine wish Molloy would allow bigger earrings and shorter skirts.

Others like to be able to show off their new yellow patent leather Marc Jacobs ballet flats, thank you very much.

But what are the chances that any of these changes will come about?

Stanners must remember that they all signed a contract in September to follow all school rules, however unreasonable or unfair they may be. Molloy is under no obligation to change.

Yet change can be good.

It's good for America and it would be good for Molloy.

— Isobel Williams '11

## Letters to the Editor Wanted

The Stanner welcomes all letters to the editor from students, faculty, alumni and staff that respond to any of the articles published in previous issues.

Send your letters to The Stanner via

email at: [thestanner@molloyhs.org](mailto:thestanner@molloyhs.org).

The Stanner reserves all rights to edit all letters to conform to space capacity and paper policy.

## The Stanner

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# Start preparing for college at Junior College Night

By Alexandra Arena '09

Archbishop Molloy's annual Junior College Night will take place from 7 to 9 p.m. on Thursday Feb. 12 in the Jack Curran Gymnasium to both inform and assist juniors and their parents with the college application process, College Guidance Counselor Mr. Kerry Hughes said.

Mr. Hughes and Bro. Richard Shea will speak at the event and will take any questions the juniors may have at the end of their presentations.

Bro. David Van Hollebeke, the former Director of Admissions at Manhattan College, also will speak to juniors and their families about the college application process.

Outlines of the steps involved in the college application process will be given to juniors and, "will continue to be given out monthly, telling the students what they need to do to prepare for college," Mr. Hughes said. "I have also created a College Planning Guide to make the whole process easier."

In addition to these two handouts, lists of the top business, in-state and



Juniors are advised to start perusing college guide books soon to get ready for next year's college application process. (Staff photo)

out-of-state state schools will be given to juniors.

Junior College Night is different from the Junior-Senior College Night held in the fall because no college representatives will be in attendance.

Mr. Hughes urges juniors and their parents attend this event to learn how the college application process works.

"It is important for the juniors to gain awareness early so they get an idea of where they want to go and what it takes

to get there," Mr. Hughes said.

Junior Joan Abelardo, who plans to attend Junior College Night, said that, like most juniors, she is undecided about where to go to college.

"That is why I am going to Junior College Night," she said, "to learn more about the schools."

A big concern among juniors is how the bad economy will hurt their chances of attending the college of their choice.

"I am concerned that the college I want to go to will be too expensive for my family," said Abelardo. "So many people are losing jobs nowadays."

Mr. Hughes knows many families have been hurt by the bad economy.

But there could be a silver lining in this economic downturn for those families whose finances are secure.

"It will probably be much easier for our students to get into private schools now because of the growing number of people who can no longer afford their cost," he said. "On the other hand, state schools will probably be much harder to get into [because of their lower tuition costs compared to private schools]."

# Bear market bites Investment Club

By Nikki Vairo '09

The Investment Club faces its most difficult challenge yet in the annual Stock Market Game, as falling stock prices have made it harder for Molloy's virtual investors to turn a profit.

The club has eight teams in the full year game and two new teams will join the half-year competition next month.

The club has won or placed among the top five teams in six of the last seven competitions, but this year Molloy's teams are struggling to cope with the recent downturn in the market.

Moderator Ms. Mary Pat Gannon said, "No sector of the market offers a safe haven. Even the best stock investors have lost 20-25% [of their money]. We fall into that same range."

Club President Jaimie Patel said, "This past segment of the Stock Market Game dealt heavy blows to all our portfolios and it was a rare sight to see any money being made. I don't think this next segment will be as detrimental to us but we will proceed with much caution. There are ample opportunities for success but it's going to take hard

work and immense effort to find them."

Ms. Gannon said students can learn from the market's troubles.

"The economy has offered a wonderful teaching opportunity," she said. "I hope students will value honest and careful stewardship over materialism and greed."

Patel said, "These hard times are the perfect chance to learn the ins and outs of the market. The Investment Club provided a way to learn without actually losing any real money and this is the purpose of the club—to make students

aware of investing in an environment where they can make mistakes and learn and not be crippled financially by the consequences. We must remember that for all the fake money we lost in the game, there have been trillions of dollars of real wealth lost from our economy in this crisis.

"It's important for everyone to know how their finances work no matter what their profession because if people were more aware of this and not blinded by greed, this current crisis could have been avoided," Patel said.

# SC proposal for longer homeroom period rejected

By Marissa Ciuffo '09

Student Council's proposal to extend homeroom period by five minutes was rejected in November by the Molloy Administration because Principal Bro. Roy George felt the extra time was unnecessary, said Ms. Kathy Loughran, moderator of the Student Council.

Student Council approached the Administration with a proposal to start the first class period at 8:00 a.m. instead of 8:05 so homeroom period could run from 8:40 to 9:00 a.m.

The proposal was made to benefit seniors because many said that the current 11-minute long homeroom period was insufficient to complete the many activities often assigned to homeroom period, such as cap and gown measurements, college discussions with Mr. Kerry Hughes, collections for campus ministry, and the reading of daily announcements.

Many seniors also ask to leave their homerooms to speak with teachers regarding college recommendations or

to take care of college application paperwork in the guidance office.

Ms. Loughran, who is a senior homeroom teacher, said, "everyone is running around like a lunatic and students are limited in the amount of time they're given to do a lot of things."

Senior Student Council member Cosimo Commisso said that the majority of seniors agreed with the proposal but he heard that many seniors did so only because they wanted to use the extra time to copy homework.

Sophomore Student Council member Gina Galizia said that she has heard several students object to the proposal because they did not favor extending the school day by five minutes.

Bro. Roy disagreed with Student Council that a longer homeroom period was needed, saying that if students just showed up for homeroom on time, more would get done.

He said the few activities that required more time in homeroom to accomplish did not occur often enough to justify extending the school day.



Mission collections are just one of many activities taking place every day during homeroom period. (Staff Photo)

Although the homeroom proposal was rejected, the Student Council has been successful accomplishing several things this year such as running its Ad Gentes bake sale, convincing the Administration to approve new fleece sweaters for the dress code, changing the textbook return system to take place in the cafeteria rather than the

gym, and planning for Spirit Week in the spring.

Student Council is also working on a new proposal.

"The idea of [Molloy sponsoring] a boys' volleyball team has been floating around," Commisso said. "It didn't go through last time, but a decent amount of people have shown interest in it."

# Art Club helps athletes bundle up

By Caitlin Moss '09

The Members of Molloy's Art Club knitted scarves and sent them on Jan. 12 to the athletes participating in the Special Olympics World Winter Games in Boise, Idaho, said moderator Mrs. Terri Burke.

Coats and Clark Yarn Company, the sponsor of the project, encouraged schools, scout troops, and other local groups to help meet its goal of

contributing 5,000 scarves for the games.

The World Winter Games will give the handmade knitted or crocheted scarves to every athlete and the delegates at the Games.

The Art Club members could be very creative in their designs because the only requirement was that the scarves must be made using delft blue and white Red Heart Super Saver Yarn because

these colors match the Special Olympics logo.

Every year Coats and Clark Yarn Company runs a different knitting and crocheting project to help a particular group of people, such as making baby blankets for abandoned babies.

Junior Shakti Ramsamooj, a club member for three years, had never knitted before so she decided to make a basic design and finished it off with

some yarn at the end as a fringe.

Ramsamooj, who participated to help a good cause, said knitting, "is tedious at first, but when you find a comfortable position to hold the cloth and yarn, it becomes much easier."

She said she will continue to knit because it is a skill she could do many things with such as make gifts.

Mrs. Burke said the work by club members has been wonderful.

## Sci Oly wishes to finish among top three teams

By Joseph Mayer '09

Molloy's Science Olympiad Team, which is training for the New York City competition on Feb. 7 at Grover Cleveland High School, has as its goal finishing among the top three teams so it can advance to the state competition at The United States Military Academy at West Point, said moderator Mr. Michael DeMarco.

If more than 40 teams are entered in the city competition, then the fourth place team would also qualify for the state meet.

Mr. DeMarco said the teams to beat in the city will be Stuyvesant, Townsend Harris, Cardozo and Collegiate.

To do that, Molloy will rely on returning team members as well as the new talent that joined the team this year.

Mr. Michael Nadeau, who is a new member of Molloy's Science Dept., is the new assistant moderator of the team and supervises the events involving physics.

Senior Kyle Hounsell is the standout member of the team, Mr. DeMarco said.

Hounsell who has been a member of the team for three years, joined because he thought it would be interesting and some of the areas of competition were in his fields of interests.

At last year's State Championship, Hounsell received medals in two out of his five events which are astronomy, electric vehicle, sumo bots, junkyard challenge and trajectory.

His personal goals for this year are to medal again at the State competition and to have all of his devices work to their full potential.

But his real interest is in seeing the whole team advance to the State Meet, saying "all for one and one for all."

Molloy has done well under Mr. Demarco, who started coaching the team when he first came to Molloy 23 years ago.

The team has won five City Championships and qualified for States 18 times, giving Molloy the best record of any Catholic school in the region.

Some of the team events that Molloy will compete in are:

\* Building a bridge out of balsa wood, which must weigh 20 grams and hold up to 33 lbs. of sand.

\* Building a sumo-bot for a robot

competition where each team uses a radio controlled robot to force the other team's robot out of a circle.

\* Building two autonomous devices, which must be able to run completely by themselves: a scale that is able to weigh and give a readout of the weight of an object automatically; and an electric vehicle with an automatic adjusting brake system that can travel down a track and stop at a prescribed distance all on its own.

\* Building a mechanical clock that is able to keep accurate time.

Hounsell has built a machine that will launch a racquet ball for the trajectory event.

He said he encountered some problems along the way but managed to fix all of them.

Hounsell said that the hardest part of being on the team is keeping to deadlines for completing construction of prototypes and finishing projects for the mechanical events.

The Science Olympiad team consists of: seniors Hounsell, Raymond Ferreira, Nicholas Chan, Jaymi Kumar Patel and Yohan Kim, juniors Louis Lamia, Paul Bakoyiannis, Susan Zheng, Frank Gentile, Justin Ly, Augustin Joseph and

## Boys Step Team is Hot despite just 5 returnees

By Bryan Lange '09

Molloy Boy Step Team placed first in its division after the first round of the Hot 97 Step Competition last month in Brooklyn.

Team captain, senior Gavin Spence, choreographed the winning routine for Molloy's 14-member team.

Despite having nine new members and only five returning members, moderator Mrs. Anne Lonergan said the team has a good chance at winning the Hot 97 finals.

Molloy last won the contest in 2007.



Stomp the hall! (Photo by Ben Joson)

In addition to the Hot 97 finals, the team has been invited to perform at the Pace College Step Championship in February and will defend its 2008 title at the Freeport Long Island competition in March.

Senior Muller Pierre-Louis, a four-year team member, said, "The team's goals for this year is to win as many competitions as we can and to train the new members as well as possible."

sophomores George DeMarco, Mary Rooney, Judy Li and Sergiusz Ostrowski.

## Stanner Players stage 'Godspell'

By Jill Nickerauer '09

The Stanner Players will perform the musical "Godspell" on Jan. 23-25 in the Molloy Theater.

"Godspell" consists of skits, stories, and songs from the Gospel of St. Matthew with cast members playing themselves and using their own names.

"The relationships between all of the characters changes throughout the course of the show," Director Mr. Kevin Schwab said.

Junior cast member Erin Brady said, "I think that students will definitely enjoy 'Godspell' because it's really fun, with catchy songs and many pop culture references."

Nine of the 10 cast members have worked with Mr. Schwab before.

"I think we get better every time," Mr. Schwab said. "I like to challenge myself and push each student to new limits when we work on a new play. The cast is really stepping up to bat."

Curtain times are 8 p.m. on Jan. 23-24 and 2 p.m. on Jan. 25.

Tickets are \$10.



Susan Zheng talks science with Kyle Hounsell. (Photo by Ben Joson)

# Rock Aid to return March 27

By Val Sarnataro '09

Rock Aid, the charity concert featuring student and professional bands, will return to Molloy after a one-year absence to rock the Jack Curran Gym on March 27, said concert coordinator Mr. Glenn DaGrossa.

Rock Aid, which has raised thousands of dollars for good causes, will be back "bigger and better" than ever, said Mr. DaGrossa.

This year's show will feature three bands: senior Victor Starsky's band Singlefile to Bliss, J-Rad and DaGrossa's own band Lazarus.

While the three bands each differ in musical genres, from power metal (Lazarus), to hard rock (J-Rad) to progressive metal (Singlefile to Bliss), they all share the same discipline, talent and love of music it takes to succeed, Mr. DaGrossa said.

Students who put the show together will be exposed to the hard work that goes into staging a concert. "It's an education in itself," said Mr. DaGrossa.

From the lights and sound equipment to the D.J. who spins in between sets, Rock Aid is a professional concert.

For this reason, Mr. DaGrossa was highly selective in choosing what bands would play. No auditions were held for this year's Rock Aid.

Instead, DaGrossa chose three

bands he knew were capable of putting on an electrifying performance.

Those who attended the last Rock Aid show in 2007 might recognize the musical stylings of Starsky because his band, then known as Cutting Edge, graced the stage and will do so again under a new name, Singlefile to Bliss.

Rock Aid was the first real show Starsky's band performed so he said it holds a special place in his heart.

"It's something I will always remember," he said of the 2007 show.

Singlefile to Bliss, the only student band performing in the show, has progressed significantly since 2007.

With its songs now available on iTunes, the band has come a long way from its first performance at Rock Aid.

"It's a good venue for a band to play," said Starsky. "It's also for a good cause."

At its five previous shows, Rock Aid raised \$15,000 to \$20,000 for causes like leukemia and lymphoma research.

Mr. DaGrossa, who has yet to choose which cause to support this year, feels confident that the vast student fan base of Rock Aid will make this year's show as successful as the rest.

"Kids look forward to it" he said. "It gives the students a chance to go to a professional rock concert."

Rock Aid's highest attendance to



Mr. Glenn DaGrossa will return to the Rock Aid stage in March with his band Lazarus. (Photo by Andre Amorim)

date is 1,284 people, a record Mr. DaGrossa said he would like to break.

The bands will hold open rehearsals before the show so students will get a chance to see what a band goes through prior to a performance and converse with band members.

It could be an influential experience for students like sophomore Ray Lumokso, who plays in a band.

Lumokso's said his hard core rock band You'll Live to Tell would like to get some advice from more experienced musicians.

"We just formed in September and haven't performed for real yet," Lumokso said. "Rock Aid is good exposure for a band."

Tickets will be \$7 in advance and \$10 at the door, said Mr. DaGrossa.

## Chess meet is under way

By Joseph Bonomo '09

The first round of the Molloy Chess Club's annual round robin tournament is underway this month, and the competition is getting fierce, said Moderator Mr. Mike Harrison.

The tournament is broken up into two rounds. The first round began in December and will end in February. The second round begins in March and ends in May.

Twenty-eight players, including Mr. Harrison, are entered in the tournament and each plays 27 games in each round.

The tournament is structured this way to ensure every competitor plays every other player at least once, said Mr. Harrison, who has been the Chess Club moderator for 20 years.

Based on their level of playing experience, players compete in three categories — A, B, and C — with results scored based on the level of

competition a player is facing in a match.

For example, an A player can only earn one point for beating another A player or a player of lower rank.

However, if a B player beats an A player, the winner earns three points and if a C player beats an A player, the winner earns five points.

If there is a draw, the points are split according to the class the players are playing in.

The tournament winner will be the player with the highest number of points at the end of the competition.

"No one gets eliminated, and it is all for fun," said Mr. Harrison.

President of the Chess Club, Senior Paul Alzate, joined because, "it is fun, interesting and very challenging."

As far as the tournament is concerned, A-level competitor Alzate laughed and said, "Mr. Harrison is the only true competition."



Senior Victor Starsky performs at Rock Aid 2007. He'll be back with a new band this year. (Photo by Christina Loccisano)

## Open Mic debuts on Jan. 27

By Emily Tansey '09

Molloy students will get an opportunity to entertain their fellow Stanners in January and February at Molloy's Open Mic nights, organizer Mr. Frank Gambino said.

Each night will present 12 acts featuring music, singing, standup comedy and poetry.

The first show's date is set for Jan. 27, with the second date yet to be determined.

These shows differ from Molloy's annual talent show because Open Mic audiences will be comprised only of current Stanners, while the talent show is open to family and friends from outside Molloy.

Performers also don't have to audition before participating in an Open Mic night, unlike talent show performers.

Students attending Open Mic nights

will pay a \$2 cover charge that includes snacks and drinks. Tickets are available in the bookstore.

Mr. Gambino said the rationale for having an Open Mic night is to prepare students for the talent show this spring by providing them with some experience on stage.

Seniors Emily Balkan and Andre Amorim, the student organizers of Open Mic night, are especially excited to see fellow senior Niccolo Pizarro's teacher impersonations.

Pizarro will also be performing an acoustic song with Victor Starsky. The boys have not yet chosen what song they will perform.

Starsky is also looking forward to doing a solo acoustic cover of "A Day in the Life" by the Beatles. He isn't worried about preparing for the show.

"It's an opportunity to jam," he said. "I play all the time anyway."



Soph Anthony Iurcotta contemplates a move. (Photo by Ben Joson)

# Cordero wins \$500 in art contest

By Luke Bilgrey '09

Manuel Cordero won the Fordham University "Live Together in Faith" art contest in Manhattan last month after entering his acrylic painting on Nov. 15.

The goal of the "Live Together in Faith" contest was for artists to depict Muslims, Christians, and Jews, religions sharing the common spiritual ancestor Abraham, living together in faith in order for the world to achieve peace.

The contest winner was determined by the votes of the people attending the exhibit.

"Because it was based on votes, I didn't think I'd win," Cordero said.

The paintings in the contest were exhibited at the Lenox Community Center in Manhattan.

As Cordero recalled, "They took all the paintings and showed them in an art gallery. People came from different places and voted. There were small town artists, people from Fordham, and people from the neighborhood voting on the paintings."

The prize for winning the contest was \$500, which was a surprise for Cordero.

Cordero plans to enter more art contests while still at Molloy but in college he plans to major in architecture rather than art.

Mrs. Terri Burke, who taught art to Cordero for the past two years, said, "He's extremely creative and he has very good techniques."

Mrs. Burke said Cordero is entering more contests such as the Nassau Community College contest in March, The American Heart Association contest in February, and another one in Roslyn in April.

Stanners have done well in art contests in the past years. "Almost every year we've had someone win an art contest either as a winner or a runner-up," Mrs. Burke said.

Cordero feels winning this contest has given him more confidence.

"It makes me think I can do a lot more with what I have," he said.



Senior Manuel Cordero won first prize last month at an art contest sponsored by Fordham University. (Photo by Emily Balkan)

# Math League not equal to being nerd

By Staceyann Ramlochan '09

Molloy's Math League Team, which consists of 40 seniors and 15 juniors, has completed three of six tests this season which have featured great competition among team members, said moderator Mrs. Adele Solari.

The Math League, which meets in room 327, sponsors both Varsity and Junior Varsity teams.

Varsity tests have six questions with players receiving one point for every correct answer. The top five individual scores count toward the team score.

The tests are submitted electronically to the Math League and the individual and team scores are returned about two weeks later, said Mrs. Solari.

The Varsity earned scores of 22, 15 and 22 out of 30 for its first three tests in October, November, and December.

The Varsity's top scorers for the October's test were Frank Gentile and Louis Lamia with 5's and Reena Abraham and Sydney Umana with 4's.

Dan Waters, Nicholas Chan, Chelsea Emrit, and Nichole Ramirez were the top scorers in November, all with 4's.

"I am pleased with my performance," said Emrit, a senior. "I would not say I am very strong in math but I enjoy it, which reflects in my performance."

Senior Farzana Ghanie said the Varsity tests are, "fair, with some being pretty hard while others are average. But none are very easy."

Senior Genesis Tejada, a four-year team member, said she enjoys the challenge of testing her math skills.

Emrit said she competes to have something better to do than sitting in the cafeteria or going home after school. "It was something more to add to my transcript," she said.

While Emrit and Tejada agreed that being on the Math League team doesn't

$$\log(xy) = \log x + \log y$$

actually help improve their math skills because competitors are, "supposed to know the material already; it's only to refresh your math skills," said Tejada.

Both Emrit and Tejada said that being in Math League has profiled them in the minds of their fellow students.

"Most people think of the students in Math League as the typical nerd, obsessed with grades and overachievement," said Emrit. "I don't think the students in Math League are at all like that, including myself. Even my friends give me the 'Why are you doing that?' stare every time I say I am going to Math League since they apply

that stereotype to the Math League."

Tejada said, "People think that in Math League, only nerds with genius IQ's join. That's not true. Many people join just because they like the challenge. There are many athletes in Math League and usually athletes are seen as dumb jocks. But that's not true either."

Mrs. Solari said, "I don't think any of the members are in the 'nerd' group. The majority of the team members are on sports and various other activities. Many of the students are not in the top five percent [of their class], but they enjoy math and like the competition."

Ghanie said, "Math League is like any

other extracurricular. Those who like English may join the literary magazine, just like those who like math may join the Math League."

The Math League's Junior Varsity has 20 members and three teams competing in the Algebra 1, Algebra 2 and Geometry subdivisions.

The JV tests are scored out of 75 points and so far Molloy has done pretty well in its first two meets with scores of 58 and 67 for Algebra 1; 71 and 54 for Algebra 2 and 49 and 59 for Geometry.

The top competitors in Algebra 1 were Steven Truong, Niles Uy, and Jeffrey Cheng.

The top scorers in Algebra 2 were Miguel Perez, Janett Williams, and Karen Zhou. Geometry's top performers were Carolyn Jativa, Victoria LeBosco and Christine Hurley.

# AM lawyers set to win case

By Henry Griffin '09

Molloy's Mock Trial team is preparing for the first round of the New York City regional competition at the Queens County Court House in late February with the hope of doing better than last year, said moderator Mr. Lou Barbera.

Mr. Barbera is confident his 12-person team and two alternates can do well because, unlike past years, every member of the team is dedicated and works hard.

Four-year team veteran Matt Leonen said, "I have a good feeling about this year's team because this year we have a lot of devoted members, which is good."

The team will take on a libel/defamation case involving a student

editor of a high school newspaper who published an accusation that the principal unjustly changed the grade a student received from his teacher in a class. The principal then sued the editor for printing the accusation.

Leonen is interested in the case simply because he's never done anything like it before.

Mr. Barbera said it's a good case because it is well balanced, meaning that both sides can make valid arguments during the trial.

The Mock Trial competition, which draws over 100 schools, is run by the Law, Youth, and Citizenship Program, a subdivision of the New York State Bar Association.

In the first round of the competition, both teams take turns acting as both

plaintiff and defense.

If a team prevails as both plaintiff and defense, it advances to the second round. If the teams split, the winner is the team who has earned the most points awarded by the judge on the basis of each team's knowledge of the case, presentation, and professionalism.

If a team advances to the second round of the single elimination tournament, it is assigned either the role of plaintiff or defense and the winner is determined by which side presents a better case.

The winner of the city competition advances to the state finals in Albany.

Last year, Molloy split its first round match but was eliminated due to having fewer points than its opponent.

# Molloy dancers wow crowds in D.C.

By Muller Pierre Louis '09

The Archbishop Molloy Dance Team did a fantastic job performing at the half time shows for the basketball games at the Gonzaga High School D.C. Classic last month in Washington D.C., said Dance Team Director Ms. Liz Murdocca.

The crowd was really supportive toward Molloy's Dance Team, Ms. Murdocca said, and the dancers received a lot of positive feedback despite being out-of-towners.

The organizers of the Gonzaga D.C. Classic enjoyed the Dance Team's performance so much that they requested that Molloy perform again next year, even if Molloy's Boys Varsity Basketball Team does not participate in the tournament, said Ms. Murdocca, who has been the Dance Team's director for seven years.

Ms. Murdocca said the team did a wonderful job at the tournament despite

having very little space at Molloy in which to practice the two different routines it performed in Washington.

The Dance Team performed twice on Friday Dec. 12 during the first round games of the tournament at Gonzaga High School and once during the tournament finals held on Saturday Dec. 13 at American University.

While in D.C., the team stayed at the Washington Renaissance Hotel.

"It was so much fun!" said junior Priscilla Velasquez, who joined the team this year. "Spending time with the team and friends was amazing. It was one of my best experiences at Molloy. I would do it again in a heartbeat!"

"I think we set a great precedent for future years for our Dance Team. After a success this year, I think I can speak for the team and say we would all love to go back to D.C. next year and dance our hearts out all over again!" said Velasquez.



Members of the Molloy Dance Team perform during a basketball game in the Jack Curran Gym. (Photo by Blue & White Staff)

In addition to performing at Molloy basketball games this season, the Dance Team will perform at the C.W. Post Dance Conference February 4 and possibly the LIU-Brooklyn Student Dance Conference and Student

Choreography Workshop in May.

"The Dance Team's goals [for the rest of the year] are to improve their technique and style and to learn different styles of dance as well as to appreciate dance more." Ms. Murdocca said.

## SADD red ribbons warn of drinking and driving

By Tebsy Paul '09

Students Against Destructive Decisions [SADD] at Molloy distributed red ribbons in December to raise awareness before the Christmas vacation of the dangers of drinking and driving, said moderator Mr. Jim Sheldon.

The group made 800 ribbons over a two-day period and distributed them on Dec. 16-17.

SADD's Executive Board, which includes seniors Stephanie Halvax, Danny Waters and Melissa Obermeier and juniors Kathryn Edwards and Elise Lontos, met in November to outline the campaign. SADD's 45 junior and senior members then made and delivered the ribbons in December.

Mr. Sheldon said the group hoped to achieve "dialogue" with its campaign.

"When a parent sees their child wearing the ribbon or a friend sees someone else wearing the ribbon, hopefully it will cause them to ask questions," Mr. Sheldon said.

SADD hoped parents and kids discussed the harmful effects of drunk driving and what to do in the event of being involved in an accident with a drunk driver.

More teens are realizing the dangers of drunk driving and are working to make their peers aware, too.

"I'm completely against drunk driving," said Waters, who has no problem being the designated driver for his friends at a party.

Waters hoped more people will stop ignoring the topic and open up to discussing the dangers of drunk driving.

Halvax believes it's very important for her peers to know the risks of drunk driving.

"At least once a month there is an

article in the newspaper having to do with a death or injury due to drunk driving," she said. "Maybe if everyone took time to raise awareness, people would realize the real danger in drunk driving and they would think before getting behind the wheel while intoxicated."

Mr. Sheldon, a moderator of SADD for 16 years, became involved after Bobby Sitler, a Molloy graduate and classmate of Mr. Sheldon's, was killed in a drunk driving accident in 1989.

When Mr. Sitler's brother, Mike, started the Molloy's chapter of SADD with Ms. Jeanne Longerano, Mr. Sheldon didn't hesitate to join.

"Teenagers are aware of the dangers but don't really understand the impact of drunk driving until it hits home," Mr. Sheldon said.

SADD, which handed out brochures at the November Parent-Teacher Conferences, is discussing distributing anti-drunk driving T-shirts in the future.

## AM marches for life

By Regina Cardinale '09

Molloy's Right to Life Club participated in the annual March for Life in Washington D.C. on Jan. 22 to protest the Supreme Court's 1972 Roe v. Wade decision that legalized abortion, Moderator Mr. Mike Germano said.

Mr. Germano hoped to have about 50 students attend the club's fourth trip to the March for Life.

"There's over 400,000 people from all over the country who come [each year] to oppose the Roe v. Wade decision," Mr. Germano said.

## Girls Varsity Swimmers lack numbers, not spirit

By Stephanie Gallagher '09

Molloy's Girls Varsity Swimming Team, started the season by winning eight straight dual meets and finished 9-1 with its only loss coming at the hands of The Notre Dame Academy of Staten Island on Jan. 11.

This season's top swimmers are: seniors Jennifer Dzurita (100 yard backstroke, 100 freestyle, 200 individual medley), Jennifer McCabe (50 and 100 freestyles) and Zuzanna Michalak (200 individual medley, 100 breaststroke) and junior Maria Skeivys (100 butterfly and 100 backstroke).

The team had a great season despite having only 26 members after losing 16 seniors from last year to graduation.

"It's just difficult because we each have so many events to swim, it gets tiring," said McCabe.

Coach Dennis Wresch credited Molloy's success to the fact that the returning swimmers have improved

greatly from last year.

Despite its lack of depth, Dzurita said the team's ambition and fighting spirit will carry it through to at least a second place finish to Notre Dame in City Championships as Molloy did last season.

Dzurita said the team is confident it can challenge its long-time rival Notre Dame in the City Championship Meet at Eisenhower Park in Nassau County on Jan. 31-Feb. 1.



Seniors Jennifer McCabe and Zuzanna Michalak (Staff photo)

The march occurred just days after the inauguration of President Barack Obama, but Mr. Germano has no expectation that the new president will take steps to reverse the current abortion laws.

"Obama is the most pro-abortion president that has ever been," he said.

Mr. Germano hoped the students who marched learned "the truth about how this law needs to be rethought and abolished."

Club members took a bus from Molloy at 6 a.m. on Jan. 22, and returned home around 10:30 pm.

The cost of the trip for each student was \$30.

Senior Richard Cardenas was excited to attend the march.

"Recently, a friend of mine had to choose between having an abortion or giving birth to a child, which made me want to support the right to life movement," he said.

Though the annual march has yet to achieve its goal, people continue to march year after year "because people have faith and hope that change will come about," Cardenas said. "One big voice can change things."

# JV Boys B-ball plays well at home

By Patrick Fava '09

The inside presence of 6-foot-5 sophomore center Steven Kelly and the defensive leadership of 5-8 sophomore guard Ernesto Vega will be vital this year if Molloy's JV Boys Basketball Team is to repeat as city champions, said Coach Ed Shannon.

"Vega has been instrumental in sparking the team's aggressive defense and he is also becoming more familiar with his position at point guard game-by-game," said Mr. Shannon.

The team's other three starters are 6-3 sharp-shooting sophomore guard/forward Chris Garcia, speedy 5-6 sophomore guard Tyler Bay, and sophomore guard/forward Chris Dorgler.

The Stanners are playing well at home this season with a 6-0 record but have lost their two road games for a 6-2 record overall.

"I love playing games at home," said Kelly, "and having the crowd behind you always helps."

The Stanners best victory this year came on Dec. 23 against last year's Long Island CHSAA Frosh champions, St. Mary's, which served as a confidence boost for the team, said Bay.

But the road hasn't been as kind to the Stanners as they lost to Rice and AllHallows.

"We need to win more games on the road," said Bay.

Kelly has been a strong defensive presence for Molly due to his shot-blocking ability, however, he said, "I want to improve my rebounding."

Mr. Shannon said the two goals for the JV squad this year are to, "share the ball, which creates trust among teammates, and build on our defensive foundation."

Both Bay and Kelly admit that there has been some pressure to "fill the shoes" of last year's championship team, most of whose members are now playing on the Varsity, their goal is still to win another city championship.



Sophomore forward Chris Dorgler looks to pass to a Junior Varsity teammate in the Jack Curran Gym. (Photo by Blue & White Staff)

# Girls have shot at keeping track title

By Jesse Leisenheimer '09

Despite losing many good athletes from last year's city championship team to graduation, Molloy's Girls Varsity Track and Field Team has a shot at retaining its title thanks to the quality of its returning members and the frosh who've joined the team this year, said Coach Austin Power.

Mr. Power said senior Monica Martinez in the triple jump, senior Stephanie Halvax in the hurdles, senior Adara Simonelli and junior Andrea Martinez in the shot put are the team leaders.

Mr. Power also said Molloy has a

very talented frosh class which has done well in replacing the graduated seniors of last year.

Last year, Molloy won both indoor and outdoor titles and Mr. Power believes that if the frosh develop quickly enough, Molloy's overall performance could be comparable to last year's team.

Distance runner Kathleen Woods, who won the frosh 1,600-meters in 5:58.0 at Fordham Prep, and Tiana Salas-Ali, who won the frosh long jump with a leap of 14-11.25 at the CHSAA Relay Carnival on Dec. 13, are among the top frosh performers so far.

Senior 800-meter runner Sydney Umana believes that the team is improving every week.

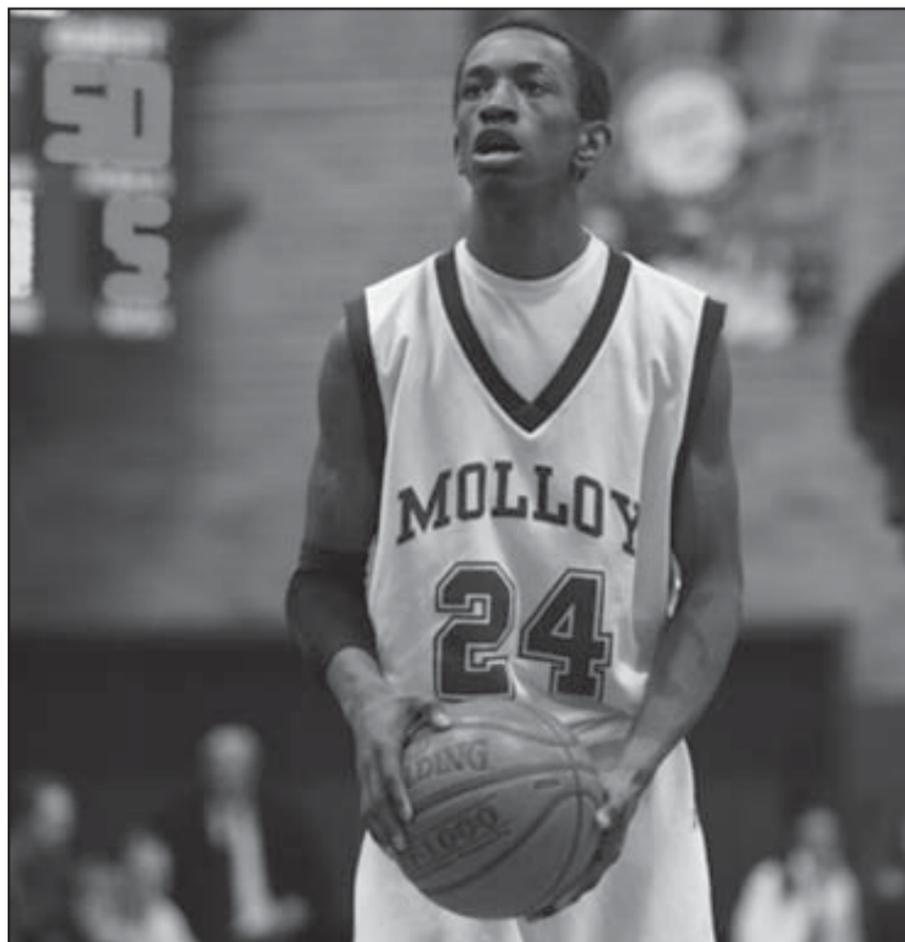
"The team has gotten better and we will have a shot at winning the title again," she said.

Umana believes that the team must first win the Brooklyn-Queens meet on Feb. 8 and then can set its sights on the city championship meet on Feb. 14.

Among the highlights of the season so far were 1,600-meter relay team of frosh Casey Collins, sophomore Tonika Forrester, frosh Nicole Kelly, and

sophomore Stephanie Rey finishing fourth in a time of 4:31.04 at the Brown Invitational Relays on Jan. 2 in Rhode Island and the shot put relay team of Martinez (31-8.5), Simonelli (31-5.25) and sophomore Cathy Terranova (25-2.5) finishing sixth at Brown.

Mr. Power believes that the Brooklyn-Queens championship meet will be very competitive and his team will need to produce strong performances from both its track and field athletes to earn another sectional title this winter.



Senior Russ Smith, who scored 41 points in an 85-62 victory over Greenport at the Big Apple Invitational at Hunter College on Jan. 19, this month became only the 15th Molloy player in history to score over 1,000 points in his career. (Photo by Blue & White Staff)

## *Still hope for IM sports*

By Bart Zeligier '09

This year's Molloy Intramural Fall Softball Tournament was suspended without a champion ever being named because too many teams forfeited their games, said intramural moderator Mr. Mark Lipset.

Molloy students once took intramural sports very seriously and years ago games were filmed on occasion and a faculty team used to play the winners in every sport.

Now, however, many homerooms have lost interest in the games.

"They would rather go home and avoid the physical stuff," said Mr. Lipset.

Frosh are the most actively involved in intramurals among all Stanners, shown by the fact that the softball tournament had six frosh teams but only three junior teams and one senior team participating.

Even the intramural referees, who in the past had been very loyal to the intramural program, don't show up to officiate the games as much as they

used to before, Mr. Lipset said.

To try to attract more teams to play intramurals, Mr. Lipset sent signup sheets to all Molloy's clubs to see if they'd be willing to field teams. So far none have replied.

"I think many students are too preoccupied with their personal lives to show any support for the games," said senior Nick Zivkovic. "There is no more fierce competition between homerooms."

Homerooms are currently playing in the coed Intramural Football Tournament but that also is not going as well as organizers would like.

"We've only had three games so far, and have played the same team twice already," said frosh Frank Marino.

Despite all the problems, this is not the end of intramurals — at least not yet.

"I always have hope," said Mr. Lipset. "We are going to try to keep it going and hopefully bring in some new teams."