

# The Stanner

Vol. 52, No. 3

Archbishop Molloy High School

November 2008

## SAC dance plans not set

### Halloween Dance: Will it be just one and done?

By **Jacqueline Cosse '10**

After the Student Activities Committee's Halloween Dance Oct. 17 was a hit, Stanners are now wondering if there will be any more dances this year or, like last year, is this another case of one and done.

Although there are no set plans, Moderator Mr. Pat Flynn said that SAC is working on having more than just the one dance per year.

About 350 freshman and sophomores attended this year's Halloween Dance with almost all of them purchasing their tickets in advance and most coming in costume.

"I had a lot of fun at this year's dance," said sophomore Michelle Constante, "and I would definitely go to another dance, if there were more."

Molloy's underclassmen came in a variety of costumes, the winners ranging from Obama and McCain costumes (frosch Fredrick Francois and Anthony Dolengewicz, to The Joker (sophomore Justin Morales) and a midget wizard (frosch Laura Miller).

This year's judges consisted of four SAC members: seniors Liz Shelley and Nikki Vairo and juniors Kathryn Edwards and Samantha Hernandez.

"I was ecstatic at the turnout" said Mr. Flynn. "All of the students seemed to have a good time."

Prisoners of Room 123, John McCain and Barack Obama, and superheroes were just some of the costumes at the Halloween Dance. (Photos by Frank Gentile and Louis Lamia)



## AP, Honors rumors prove true

By **Camille Dwyer '10**

The rumor floating around school that AP and Honors classes would lose their weighted grade status proved to have merit on Nov. 13 when senior Andre Amorim met with the school's Advisory Board on to discuss the idea.

"Nothing's been decided," said Ms. Jeanne Longerano, Math Dept. Chairperson and Advisory Board member. "It's just being discussed."

Recently there have been conversations among members of the Molloy student body on the topic of weighted grades given to students who take AP and Honors classes.

Stanners have always debated the issue of whether Honors and AP classes

are really so much harder than regular classes that students deserve to receive the 1.05 Honors weight on their grades or the 1.07 AP weight.

This fall there has been some talk that the weights could be lowered or possibly dropped all together.

When AP and Honors students heard these rumors, they drafted a petition demanding that weighted grades not be dropped or changed and many students signed it.

Some said they heard that the proposal to drop or change the weighted grades system had been made by a member of Student Council.

But Amorim, who is Student Council Vice President, said, "This has nothing

to do with Student Council. It's just my proposal."

Some students who signed the petition did so because they would not like their grades to drop because of the elimination or reduction of the weight.

Others said that the weight should be lowered, but it should be approved first by the whole student body because this would affect everyone.

Juniors Martha Bielonko, David Kane, and Ryan Mann all agreed that the AP curve should be maintained as is because AP classes move at a much faster pace than regular classes do.

The disagreement among them occurred when the discussion came to the weight given to Honors classes.

Mann, who has taken regular, Honors, and AP classes, said, "AP deserves the curve but Honors deserves a smaller one because Honors is just the same as a regular class while AP classes are much harder."

Bielonko, student of in both regular and Honors classes, begs to differ because, "Honors and AP both move faster than regular classes and it's the challenge of doing all your work on time that makes the Honors and AP classes difficult."

Kane, who takes Honors and AP classes only, also doesn't want to see any changes.

"Why fix something that isn't broken?" he said.

# Detention must fit the crime

For the past few months, some disgruntled Stanners have been complaining about what they consider to be unfair detention punishments or Molloy's detention system in general.

Most students realize that detention is necessary to keep an orderly school, but they also view Molloy's detention system as occasionally being ridiculous.

The biggest complaint is that some teachers and teachers' assistants confiscate a student's ID card and send him or her to Room 123 without first hearing the student's side of the story.

These adults take the attitude that the student broke the rule, so there is no need to hear about the specific circumstances for why the rule violation occurred.

Other Stanners say that they have been given unfair punishments, meaning that they were given either detentions that didn't fit the crime or got detention when they did not break a rule at all.

Juniors Joe Comito and Jill Sheehan both feel they were given unfair detentions.

Comito received a half hour of detention for laughing during one of the school's fire drills.

As he was walking back to the school building at the end of the drill, one of his friends tripped.

When Comito started laughing, a teacher approached him and asked for his ID card.

Comito was dumbfounded.

He looked himself over. His tie was on. The top button of his shirt was buttoned. His belt was on.

He wondered: "What could I possibly have done wrong?"

The teacher told him that he would have to serve detention in Room 123 after school because he was talking during a fire drill.

The teacher then walked away.

Comito was annoyed. He felt he did nothing wrong and, therefore, he could not understand why he had gotten detention for simply laughing.

Sheehan, meanwhile, complained that it seems as if Molloy's teachers' assistants give out detentions in an arbitrary fashion.

Sheehan was stopped outside the cafeteria by a T.A. and given detention for having an untucked shirt, a clear violation of the dress code.

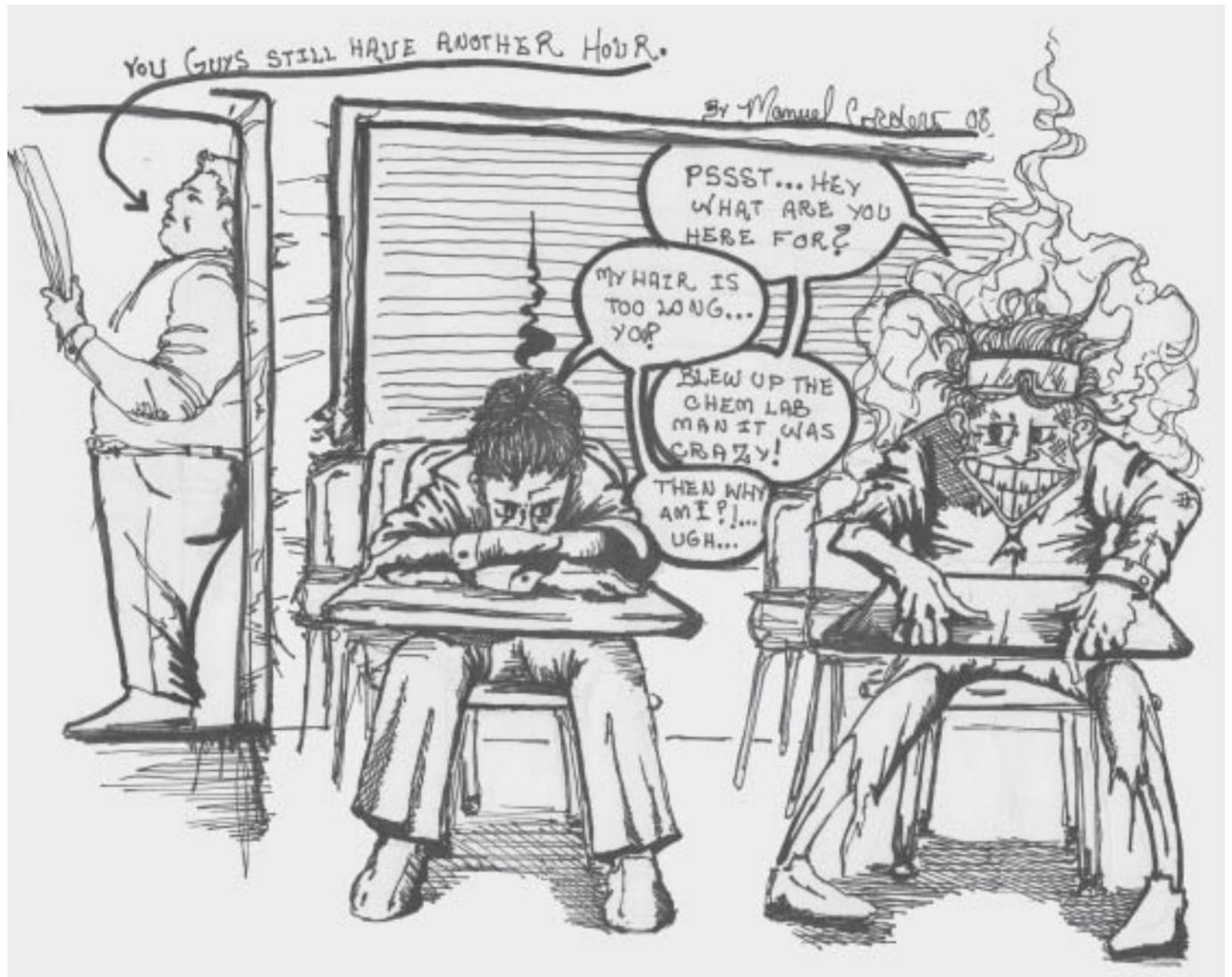


Illustration by Manuel Cordero

But then she watched as that same T.A. walked down the hall, stopped another student with an untucked shirt, and simply asked her to tuck in her shirt.

Sheehan was confused.

Why did she receive detention while the other girl, who committed the same offense, did not?

Sheehan would have gladly tucked her shirt back in; in fact, she said it was an accident that it was untucked in the first place.

Sheehan felt that it is unfair to give one student a warning and another detention for the same offense.

These students would like to know what the guidelines are for giving out detentions.

Assistant Principal for Students Mr. Ken Auer said Molloy's detention system tries to be as fair and as even-handed as possible.

But he agreed that in every case that might not be true.

Mr. Auer explained that the rules for student behavior are clearly stated in Molloy's Student Handbook and so no student should be surprised if he or she is punished for violating a school rule.

He also said that he "does not pick punishments out of thin air. The more severe the crime, the more severe the punishment."

Although no system can be perfect, a few changes to Molloy's detention system could make it better.

First, teachers should make a better effort to listen to the student's side of the story.

When a teacher believes a student has broken a rule, the teacher should first ask the student what were the circumstances that caused the rule to

be broken or why he or she broke that particular rule.

If the teacher still believes the offense warrants a detention, then the teacher can send the student to Room 123 and give Mr. Auer a note with a brief description of the offense. Mr. Auer can then take the necessary action.

Mr. Auer should also post the amount of detention a student will receive for each time they break a rule listed in the Student Handbook. That way students will stop believing that detentions are indeed picked out of thin air.

We're all aware that the detention

system can not always be 100% even handed.

Some teachers are more lenient in enforcing the rules than others.

And some Stanners just seem to be able to magically avoid detention no matter what they do.

So the best the rest of us can do is tuck in our shirts, wear a belt, keep our skirts unrolled, always wear the right shoes and the proper number of earrings. Then hope that's good enough for Molloy.

— Daniel Cosgrove '10 and  
Melissa Gazal '10

## Wanted: Letters to the Editor from students

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.

Thank you for your involvement and we look forward to your input.

### 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. 2:

Senior Katie Mariano's first name was misspelled in the college applications article.

### The Stanner

Volume 52, Number 3

Editor-in-Chief:  
Managing Editor:  
Photography Editor:  
Layout Editor:  
Copy Editor:

Stanner Moderator:  
Technical Advisor:  
Publisher:

Melanie Dostis  
Stephanie Almache  
Ray Ferreira  
Allie Reisch  
Mary Theresa Rooney;  
Jonathan Mangar; Leslie Corona  
Mr. Charley McKenna  
Mr. Dan Charvet  
Bro Roy George

# Class of '09 has 135 seniors in NHS

By Derek Sokolowski '11

Molloy inducted 135 seniors into the Louis E. Willet Chapter of the National Honor Society in a ceremony attended by faculty, family and friends on October 30 in the Jack Curran Gym.

Two weeks before the ceremony, four seniors were elected as the chapter's officers: President Nicole Ambrose, Vice President Jonathan Mangar, Secretary Dorota Sawicki, and Treasurer Jayminkumar Patel.

Mr. Brian Kelly, moderator of NHS, said that the number of seniors inducted this year was "about average" but fewer than the number of seniors inducted last year.

Andre Amorim, like many seniors, said he expected to be accepted into NHS but added that it still felt good when he became a member.

Krystyna Bronchard said, "I hope that getting into NHS will help me get into the college of my choice."

Mr. Kelly said that in order to qualify for induction into Molloy's chapter of the NHS, a senior must meet specific criteria in four areas of student life:

\* **Scholarship:** Seniors must have at least a 93 cumulative academic average from frosh to junior year.

\* **Character:** Seniors must have a good disciplinary record at school, which is measured by their having no detentions or barely any over a three year period.

\* **Leadership:** Seniors must be consistently involved in school activities such as clubs and sports.

\* **Service:** Seniors must be involved in a volunteer service organization either at Molloy or outside of school.

The ceremony, held the day before Halloween, began with Assistant Principal with Mr. Ken Auer serving as the opening speaker and Assistant Principal Mr. Ed Jennings delivering the invocation.

Molloy's Concert Band, led by Mr. Greg Leonardo, played "America the Beautiful," and then Principal Bro. Roy



Kimberly Bernard, Lauren Balkan, Emily Balkan, and NHS President Nicole Ambrose, above, pose after the induction ceremony. Below are NHS Vice President Jonathan Mangar, Anthony Cagliano, Barbara Byrne, and Farzana Ghanie. (Photos by Ms. Kathy Loughran)

George welcomed the guests to the ceremony.

Ambrose delivered the NHS President's Address, which explained to the audience the meaning of the induction ceremony.

A symbolic ceremony was conducted by the four officers, with each lighting a candle representing the four aspects of being a NHS member.

The NHS "Inductee's Pledge" was led by Ambrose and recited by the inductees.

Then the chapters officers and candidates were installed and their names read by Assistant Principal Sr. Elizabeth Bickar.

Molloy President Mr. John Sherry led members of the faculty, families, and friends in reciting the "Rite of Commissioning."

Mr. Kelly then delivered the closing remarks and a reception was held afterwards in the cafeteria.

The following seniors were inducted into the NHS:

Russell Aala; Reena Abraham; Melissa Alke; Nicole Ambrose; Andre Amorim;

Emily Balkan; Lauren Balkan; Kimberly Bernard; Margaret Bolan; Nicole Bonilla; Michelle Bravo; Krystyna Bronchard; Barbara Byrne; Anthony Cagliano; Samantha Carcione; Regina Cardinale; Kaitlin Carr; Brigid Carragee; Alexandra Carreno; Marissa Castoro; Theresa Cervantes; Anthony Chan; Jenny Chan; Sarina Chao; Marissa Ciuffo; Ivan Collado; Manuel Cordero; Jeanna Dalvano; Christina Damore; Priyanka Datta; Sigrid DeGuzman; Cody DeMarco; Keith Devas; Valentina DiGangi; Brittany Dombrowski; Angela Dumlao; Jacqueline Ehrhardt; Michelle

Eichorst; Chelsea Emrit; Raymond Ferreira; Rebecca Fiore; Sheri Florio; Danielle Ford; Melissa Garcia; Farzana Ghanie; Tara Gildea; Dana Giuntini; Andriana Glavan; Jenna Goldbach; Claudia Goncalves; Nicole Gorga; Justin Gratta; Christina Grimaldi; Elizabeth Hardy; Naaila Hassan; Meg Hernandez; Christopher Hernandez; Sean Hickey; Kyle Hounsell; Connor Hubbard; Andrew Hubert; Melissa Hurtado; Douglas Hurtares; Francesco Izzo; Gina James; Marije Jauregui; Jade Johnson; Christopher Kabelac; Lauren Kalma; Julia Karsten; Julianne Keyes; Labiba Khan; Lauren Kim; Yohan Kim; Courtney Klopfer; Stephanie Kotnik; Kristen Lasak; Kisha Laurent; Matt Leonen; Carol Leong; Christina Loccisano; Ariel Maffei; Adrienne Magun; Jonathan Mangar; Danielle Manzella; Katrinne Mariano; Regine Marquez; Steven Masillo; Sarah Mauro; Erica McElligott; Zuzanna Michalak; William Miller; Jessica Modzelewska; Megan Moravek; Catherine Morreale; Jennifer Morrisey; Mary Napolitano

Edward Nasser; William Neubauer; Camilla Niedzwiedz; Angela Nolan; David Olusoga; Charles Paszkowski; Jayminkumar Patel; Adriana Pena; David Penaranda; Maria Piedrahita; Peter Plaza; Kristen Ralph; Nicole Ramirez; Christine Ramkishun; Adriana Rannazzisi; Allison Reisch; Dominique Ruggiero; Lais Santos; Valerie Sarnataro; Dorota Sawicki; Gabriella Scalzo; Kimberley Seoane; Maya Shah; Elizabeth Shelley; Nancy Singh; Laura Sonnylal; Emily Tansey; Genesis Tejada; Jincy Thadathil; Audrey Tung; Nicolette Vairo; Nicolle Velez; Alexander Wach; Daniel Waters; Brandi Wilson; Oskar Wojciechowski; Anastzja Wojnarowski; Sandra Zawadka.



# Stanner Players set to take stage in Jan. in rockin' musical 'Godspell'

By Alex Lamburini '11

The Stanner Players will take the stage on Jan. 22-24 in the Molloy Theater to present their rocking musical production, "Godspell."

Choosing this energetic show as its first of two productions this year meant Director Mr. Kevin Schwab would be working with a significantly smaller cast than he did in the two previous musicals he has directed at Molloy, "Guys and Dolls" in 2008 and "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat" in 2007.

With only ten cast members, "Godspell" was the most difficult production for Mr. Schwab to cast

because of large number of talented students who auditioned on Oct. 9-10.

The approximately 60 students who auditioned for a role in the show were judged not only on their acting, singing and dancing skills, but also on their versatility, physical appearance, and maturity.

Mr. Schwab, musical director Mr. Richard Louis-Pierre, and choreographer Ms. Alison Schwab agonized over their final cast choices.

Senior Victor Starsky, who will play John, was the only newcomer to be cast, while the nine other cast members have worked both onstage and off for The Stanner Players in previous years.

Senior Connor Hubbard will play the role of Jesus. He starred in the title role of Joseph in The Stanner Players' production two years ago.

The rest of the cast are six seniors, Cailin Chang, Angela Dumlao, Travis Kessel, Niccolo Pizarro, Cosimo Commisso and Claudia Goncalves, and two juniors, Erin Brady and Gabrielle Plaia.

Mr. Schwab is happy to have what he considers to be an experienced cast on board for the first production of the season.

However, in the future, Mr. Schwab said, "we are looking for new blood, since the majority of the talent we've

seen lies with juniors and seniors."

Mr. Schwab said he plans to select a comedy featuring a large cast for The Players' second production of the year, which will be staged April 2-5 in the Theater.

Rehearsals for "Godspell" began on Oct. 20 and will continue right up until the musical's opening night on Thursday Jan. 22.

"I like to move quickly, organize the skeleton of the play and then begin adding nuances and depth to each moment as the process continues," Mr. Schwab said.

"Before we know it, opening night will be right around the corner."

# Stanners walked to raise \$150,000

By Vimla Warslie '11

With frosh Theresa Gee leading the way as the top fund-raiser, Archbishop Molloy met its goal of \$150,000 at its annual Walk-a-thon on Oct. 24.

Gee won free tuition for a year for her efforts while sophomore Stephen Bradley won a lap top computer for being the second best fund-raiser overall.

Christian Chandler was the top junior and Sean Hickey was the leader among seniors.

With over 1,000 Stanners and faculty walking through the Briarwood, Principal Bro. Roy George

was happy to say there were no complaints from neighbors except for a minor traffic problem.

The weather was warm and sunny and kept intact the claim that it has never rained on the Molloy Walk-a-thon.

Last year the money raised was used to pay for part of the cost of constructing a new Chemistry Lab.

This year Bro. Roy said the money raised will go toward paying for the second phase of the lab's construction.

"Stanners showed a tremendous amount of school spirit and the Walk-a-thon went off without a hitch," said Bro. Roy.

As a result of meeting their fund-raising goals, all Stanners will have off the day of Friday Dec. 5 as a reward.

Prizes were awarded to the top two fund raisers overall and to the top five fund-raisers in each grade.

In addition, all students earned one raffle ticket for each \$100 they raised and became eligible to win more prizes



in the raffle drawing

So in addition to winning free tuition, Gee won a personal computer, two tickets to a Rangers game,

and a \$150 Gap gift card in the raffle.

Among the prizes the top fund raisers won were prom tickets, free tuition for driver's ed class, tickets to sporting events, iPods, and gift cards from clothing and book stores.

Many Stanners were happy to participate in the Walk-a-thon and had a good time doing so..

"I think it was a great experience," said sophomore Johnny Wang. "I got to hang out with my friends and raise money for a good reason."

Bro. Roy said he wanted to thank everyone who walked and helped raise money for the lab.



Students pose with Mr. Glenn DaGrossa, top right, while members of the Environment Club, below, carry garbage bags in order to clean up the neighborhood as they walked. (Photos by Ben Josen)



Molloy's Cross County teams ran the route on Walk-a-thon Day, above. Mr. Mark Lipset, below, stamps a student's Walk-a-thon card while chomping on his cigar. (Photos by Ben Josen).



## 30 Stanners win prizes for Walk-a-thon efforts

Thirty different Stanners won at least one prize for their fund-raising efforts in Molloy 2008 Walk-a-thon.

Here is a list of the prize winners:

**Top Frosh:** 1. Theresa Gee, \$150 Gap Gift Card; 2. John Varsam, \$100 Gap Gift Card; 3. Katelyn Dial, \$50 Gap Gift Card; 4. Jenna Rohrsen, \$50 Gap Gift Card; 5. Francesco Catarisano, \$50 Gap Gift Card.

**Top Sophomores:** 1. Stephen Bradley, \$150 Gap Gift Card; 2. Liam Baker, \$100 Gap Gift Card; 3. David Polanco, \$50 Gap Gift Card; 4. Kim Lien Trotta, \$50 Gap Gift Card; 5. Dylan Cepeda, \$50 Gap Gift Card

**Top Juniors:** 1. Christian Chandler, Free Driver's Ed; 2. Megan Crane, \$100 Gap Gift Card; 3. Kyra Aloizos, \$50 Gap Gift Card; 4. Emily Vairo, \$50 Gap Gift Card; 5. James Avolanti, \$50 Gap Gift Card

**Too Seniors:** 1. Sean Hickey, 2 Tickets to the Senior Prom; 2. Adriana Glavan, \$100 Gap Gift Card; 3. Daniel Waters, \$50 Gap Gift Card; 4. Anthony Infante, \$50 Gap Gift Card; 5. Kyle Hounsell, \$50 Gap Gift Card

### Raffle Prizes:

**iPod:** frosh John Varsam

**Personal Computer:** frosh Theresa Gee

**Four Islander Tickets:** frosh Joseph Estevez

**Four Mets Tickets:** senior Adriana Glavan

**Two Ranger Tickets:** frosh Theresa Gee; junior Katrina Colletti; frosh Roman Pirozet

**Three Ranger Tickets:** frosh John Varsam

**Four Knicks Tickets:** senior Ben Josen

**Two Islanders Tickets:** junior Catherine Esmilla

**\$125 Gap Gift Card:** frosh Thomas Dougherty

**\$50 Gap Gift Card:** senior Joseph Mayer; senior Daniel Waters, senior Anthony Infante, senior Kyle Hounsell

**\$50 Gift Certificate to the Molloy Bookstore:** frosh John Esposito

**\$50 Movie Gift Certificate:** junior Daniel Price

**\$50 Barnes & Noble Gift Certificate:** frosh Kristina Atienza

# First frosh retreat helps make friends

By Christa Ciuffo '11 and Nicole Stimitz '11

Last month, 87 frosh traveled up to Esopus to bond with one another, carve pumpkins, sit by the fire, participate in icebreaker games, and play some flag at the first Freshmen Retreat of the year.

"We had a fantastic retreat," said Bro. John Raeihle, "with great teams and wonderful talks. The whole thing was memorable and everyone had a great time."

The theme of this retreat, held from Oct. 24-26, was "learning to accept yourself, others, and God."

Every frosh interviewed raved about the good time they had on their first retreat at Molloy and some said it was even better than they had expected.

"I thought it was going to be mostly praying and focusing on God," said Christopher Gilligan. "But it ended up being a good balance of sports, free time, and prayer."

Anastasia Limogiannis said, "I

actually expected less from it. I thought everyone would stay in their usual groups of friends but I spoke to and hung out with almost everyone there, including people I had never spoken to before."

This shows just how helpful the Freshmen Retreats are in helping students to get to know their classmates.

And, of course, playing a friendly but competitive game of flag always helps, too!

The only complaint the frosh had about their weekend involved the weather.

Unfortunately, bad weather on retreats can limit some of the usual activities, including the trip to the river.

"I didn't like that it rained and we couldn't go to the river," said Casey

Collins, "But hey, that's Mother Nature!"

However, indoor activities such as flag, group time, and free time made up for it.

The bad weather that kept the frosh indoors much of the time might have helped some of them get to know each other a little better and open up to each other a little more.

"I became closer with more people and felt more accepted by the students and school," said Limogiannis.

The cost of the retreat was \$120, but many frosh said it was worth the money to have such a great experience.

Limogiannis, Collins and Gilligan all recommend that their classmates attend the next retreat scheduled for the weekend of May 1-3.

## Seniors enjoy a once in a lifetime experience walking to the World Trade Center

By Christine Sito '09 and Lucrezia Zanca '09

For the past four years, seniors have had the option to walk to the World Trade Center site rather than through the streets of Briarwood on Molloy's annual Walk-A-Thon Day.

This year, accompanied by guidance counselors Mr. Ted McGuinness, Mr. Chris Dougherty, Bro. James Norton and two alumni, 57 seniors trekked the 11 miles down Metropolitan Avenue over the Williamsburg Bridge and into Manhattan.

The purpose of this special walk for seniors only is to carry out a tradition started by the late Bro. Leo Richard, a Molloy guidance counselor.

Bro. Leo began this walk many years ago with a very small number of students to give them a chance to converse and bond with one another while exercising.

Senior Nikki Vairo signed up to take part in this walk because she thought "it would be a fun and memorable experience."

Once in Manhattan, Stanners had lunch in the trendy Lower East Side neighborhood around Essex St. and then continued their walk through

Chinatown into the financial district.

Six hours after they left Molloy, the Stanners arrived at the World Trade Center site and held a brief prayer service at the FDNY's Ladder 10 firehouse.

Niccolo Pizarro said the seniors felt a "sudden sense of respect and unity" while visiting the site of the Sept. 11 attack.

"I think it was a very rewarding experience," said Pizarro.

After the service, Stanners went home from the WTC via subway.

"I was very pleased with the way the walk went this year," said Mr. Dougherty. "It was a great group."

Mr. Dougherty plans to continue conducting the walk into Manhattan next year but with a little twist.

"Next year's seniors will be given the option to walk back to Molloy," he said.

Joann Syrek urged this year's juniors to get their Walk-a-thon pledges in early next year and sign up for the walk.

"Definitely go," she said. "But wear good [walking] shoes!"

Liz Shelley also recommended the walk.

"It's a once in a lifetime experience," she said.



Senior Ray Ferreira and Mr. Ted McGuinness, in lower right corner of the group, pose on the Williamsburg Bridge with the rest of the Molloy posse that walked from Briarwood into Manhattan as part of Walk-a-thon Day.



Junior Steve Tanico, right, demonstrates how to carve a pumpkin during frosh retreat. (Photo by Bro. John Raeihle)

## Teachers have TV favorites, too

By Navdep Kaur '11

When teachers go home at the end of the school day, what TV shows do they like to watch?

Some like classic TV shows while others like new shows. Either way, many are extremely dedicated fans.

Art and music teacher Mr. Glenn DaGrossa, for example, is a fan of reality TV shows because their outcomes are "not pre-determined."

He likes old favorites such as "Amazing Race" and "Survivor." He also watches reruns of classic TV shows such as "Seinfeld" and "Little House on the Prairie."

Yet Mr. DaGrossa confesses that he doesn't watch TV a lot.

"No," he said, "I'm a gamer."

After a long day teaching Chemistry and working on the new Science Research Program, Ms. Mary Mallia unwinds by watching "House."

"I love the difficult cases and how the characters go about solving them," she said.

Biology and health teacher Mr. Jim Sheldon loves watching "Lost" because "the cliffhangers make you think.

Everything is very well placed. There's no randomness."

Mr. Sheldon is also a fan of the classic show "Cheers."

Math teacher and mother-to-be Mrs. Kasey DiPasquale also watches "Lost" because, "there are so many things going on. I like to see how the different plots are going to tie together."

Though math teacher Mr. Brian Klimas is also a fan of "Lost," his favorite show is "Family Guy" because "the short clips are perfect for casually watching TV. You can tune in for a minute or two, enjoy a funny clip, and then go do something else."

English teacher Ms. Liz Murdocca is a fan of comedies such as "The Office" because she loves the "pathos and satire" in it.

She also watches "Heroes."

Many Stanners are probably wondering right now if they could get extra credit points for watching the same shows that their teachers love.

But when asked, all teachers had the same response:

"No."

Sorry guys.

# Marist Youth starts drive

By Karen Zhou '11

The Molloy student body has a long-standing tradition of being involved in local community service through several school-run programs.

However, this year, Molloy's chapter of Marist Youth, consisting of 26 Stanners, has taken up the challenge of helping out communities as far away as Asia through the Marist Mission Ad Gentes program.

In May 2008, the Marist Brothers

Evangelization Team asked the universal Marist Youth community at its annual conference to help raise money to set up a Marist Brothers Foundation in Southeast Asia.

Junior Stephen Tanico, a conference attendee and a leader of Marist Youth, said all Marist Youth members were happy to help out.

"It was great to connect with other Marist Youth members from all walks of life who are committed to

contributing to Ad Gentes," he said.

The words "Ad Gentes" are Latin for "To the nations."

Marist Youth will begin to raise money for the cause this month.

"Our goal is to try to reach \$10,000, which is the cost of sponsoring one Marist brother for a year in Asia," said Mr. Mark Sweeney, the Marist Youth Moderator along with Bro. John Raeihle.

So far, Marist Youth has received a donation of \$1,000 from an alumnus and contributions totally almost \$100 from the faculty and staff.

It's the goal of the Marist Evangelization Team to "make Jesus known and loved by Asian people through the intercession of the Marist Brothers in their efforts to relieve their poverty," said Mr. Sweeney.

So far to raise awareness, Marist

Youth members have spoken to the entire Molloy community about Ad Gentes during September's Spirit Masses, ran contests for the student body in the school lobby in September and again this month, gave Ad Gentes presentations in religion classes, created a display across from Room 123, made daily announcements over the public address system during homeroom period, and put up posters around the school.

Junior Stephen Finn, another Marist Youth leader, said the group is planning to sponsor more fundraisers, contests, and posters to promote awareness and inspire students to donate money to the cause.

If any students wish to be become directly involved in Ad Gentes, they can submit ideas for these future events to either Bro. John or Mr. Sweeney.



Senior Anthony Chan gives a thumbs-up, above, feeling confident he'll win the "Ad Gentes" contest in the school lobby sponsored by Marist Youth. Senior Andre Amorim and other members of Marist Youth put up a display across Room 123 last month to help publicize the Marist Brothers Evangelization Team. (Photos by Bro. Roy George)



# Obama victory expected

## Stanners surprised just by Democrat's margin of victory

By David Kane '10

The most hotly anticipated presidential election of our generation has now ended.

After months of debating and arguing the issues and laughing over the political parodies done by Saturday Night Live, the 2008 Presidential Election concluded with Illinois Senator Barack Obama defeating Arizona Senator John McCain by over 200 electoral votes.

Although not officially president yet, as the Electoral College still has to cast its ballots, it is a foregone conclusion that our 44th President will be the first African American to hold the office.

About a week before the election, five juniors — two of whom supported Obama, two McCain, and one Ralph Nader — all agreed Obama would win.

Junior Nicholas Merkling, a McCain supporter, said he would have been

"extremely shocked" if his candidate had won.

Junior Samantha Traslaviña, an Obama supporter, said she believed there was "a strong possibility" that her candidate would come out on top.

The issue of running mates played very little role, with each student saying that the vice presidential nominees were only a small factor in choosing a candidate.

Even though few Stanners were old enough to vote, it didn't stop them from having strong opinions about Obama's victory.

A few were surprised by Obama's overwhelming victory in the Electoral College.

Sophomore Deborah DePinto blamed Republican Vice Presidential nominee Sarah Palin for McCain's lopsided defeat.

"I wasn't expecting him to lose by a landslide," she said. "I thought it would have been really close or McCain would have least have won Ohio."

Junior Katherine Sommers said, "I thought John McCain had more

support; I expected the results to be much closer."

Junior Camille Dwyer cited "The Bradley Effect" as her reasoning for thinking the election would be closer.

She explained the Bradley Effect, named for California's African-American Democratic politician Tom Bradley, occurs, "when voters say they will vote for an African American candidate in polls, but when it comes time for the actual election, they don't."

But "Bradley" seemed to have no "effect" on this election.

Students' views on the short and long-term effects of Obama's victory varied.

Senior Anthony Chan thought that "the U.S. would face numerous challenges in our economy and foreign policy."

Everyone predicted there would indeed be change. But whether they thought it would be good or bad depended on whom they supported.

Many who predicted negative outcomes were those put off by the Democratic Party's liberal views.

Students also pointed to the fact that Democrats increased their majorities in both the Senate and House in addition to winning the White House.

Junior Natalie Paret said, "the Democratic-dominated House and Senate will make it much easier for Obama to keep his campaign promises."

One thing all Stanners agreed on was having a sense of relief that the election had finally ended.

## Coming next month in The Stanner

Starting next year, Stanners will be able to wear a different style Molloy sweater or, for the first time in history, a Molloy fleece as part of their school uniform.

Samples of both new garments are available for students to examine in Room 123.

Look for the complete story in the November issue of The Stanner.

## Dance Team to debut at a Molloy b-ball game



Stephanie Kotnik, center, and the rest of the Dance Team rehearse. (Photo by Derek Sokolowski)

By Kristen Himmelberg '09 and Victoria Barrett '09

Thirty-eight girls tried out for Molloy's Dance Team from Sept. 23-25 but only 15 ended up earning a coveted spot on the team.

Seven dancers are new to the team: frosh Lauren Alessandro and Victoria Lugo; juniors Priscilla Velasquez and Liana Angrisani; and seniors Dominique Ruggiero and Casey Schneller.

The nine returning members are: sophomores Danielle Fabiilli and Christina Lucci; juniors Alex Bello and Alex Fabiilli; and seniors Gabriella Scalzo, Stephanie Kotnik, Julie O'Lansen, Kaitlin Motley and Andrea Kausch.

Ms. Liz Murdocca, Dance Team moderator, and senior Nikki Vairo, the team's manager, hoped that the returning members of the team would be able to work together with the new members to make this one of the best years yet for the dance team.

So far, so good, as Ms. Murdocca said rehearsals are, "the best we've ever had."

"Everyone has improved since last year. The one newcomer that has stood out to me has been Lauren Alessandro. I think she adds a lot to the team," said Ms. Murdocca.

The team plans to make its debut at a Molloy basketball game next month and hopes to dance at as many games

as possible this year.

The biggest event is a trip to the Gonzaga High School Christmas Tournament on Dec. 12-14 in Washington, D.C., where the team will perform at the tournament featuring Molloy's Varsity Boys Basketball team.

"The whole team's excited," said captain Scalzo, a four-year team veteran. "We've attended competitions before, but this is the first one that will be out of state. We can't wait!"

The Dance Team at first expected to only dance during the tournament games when Molloy is playing but then accepted an offer to dance at all the games including the championship final.

The team will perform again at the annual C.W. Post Dance Conference this year.

Members also will take classes at a dance studio in Manhattan.

During the first six weeks of rehearsals, team members have choreographed two dance numbers.

Though everyone contributes to the dances, the four main choreographers are Scalzo, Kotnik, Motley and Bello.

Alessandro said of making the team on her first try: "I enjoy that I get to do what I love and have fun with it. I'm excited to be dancing with these girls and am happy to have made so many new friends."

## Environment Club member Zheng arranges club cleanup down at Rockaway Beach

By Staceyann Ramlochan '09

Twenty nine members of the Environment Club, Go Green, got on one of the Molloy's cheese buses after school on Tuesday Oct. 21 and headed down to Rockaway Beach to lend a few helping hands as a part of the American Littoral Society's Beach Cleanup Project between 110th and 116th Streets.

The sunny weather allowed for the students, along with Moderators Mr. Chris Dougherty and Mr. Matt Kilkelly, to clean for two hours.

Junior Susan Zheng arranged for the club to join the cleanup with the help of Mr. Dougherty.

Senior Emily Tansey described the beach at Rockaway as "somewhat dirty," but said, "the boardwalk was the worst."

"We used gloves and trash bags to clean up and [when we were done] every trash bag was really heavy," Tansey said.

Mr. Dougherty said, "The grossest thing was the dead duck with maggots underneath it that we discovered underneath the boardwalk."

Tansey, the club's spokeswoman, said the experience "was really fun because the weather was good and we went to Exotic Super Foods afterward for snacks and drinks. We all felt very accomplished."

Mr. Dougherty said, "Molloy students were the only ones involved in the cleanup, and since it went well, we're planning to have several more in the month of October next year because the sign up list exceeded the number of students we could take this year."

Tansey said the Beach Cleanup Project was just one of the many ways Molloy students can become active in trying to keep the environment clean.

Students also should try to participate in Operation Clean Sweep, the Environment Club's annual recycling operation in June, Tansey said.

"We recycle all paper and books that are not re-usable," Tansey said. "We store all usable paperback books and shelves in the school basement and then they are sold [to students] the next fall!"

The club used the money it raised in its September used book sale to support various environmental organizations.

## Molloy Movie Madness

Answers to Molloy Movie Madness Puzzle

1. The Perfect World meets the Perfect Assassin: "Aeon Flux"
2. Anywhere is possible: "Jumper"
3. Go Mach 5: "Speed Racer"
4. Old English epic hero poem: "Beowulf"
5. Motel Kenya: "Hotel Rwanda"
6. Why so serious?: "The Dark Knight"
7. Metal Boy: "Iron Man"
8. Metamorphers or Changers: "Transformers"
9. An inconceivable mass: "The Incredible Hulk"
10. Which actor appeared in multiple movies listed above?: Samuel L. Jackson

## Hounsell, Carr earn National Merit semifinalist status

Seniors Kaitlin Carr and Kyle Hounsell were the two members of Molloy's Class of 2009 to be named National Merit Scholarship semifinalists based on their performance on the 2007 PSAT/NMSQT.

Four more seniors received "Commended Students" honors from

the National Merit organization: Nicole Bonilla, Travis Kessel, Kristen Lasak, and Jonathan Mangar.

Six seniors were honored by the National Hispanic Recognition Program: Bonilla, Barbara Byrne, Raymond Ferreira, Justin Gratta, Edward Nasser, and Kimberly Seoane.

## Chem Lab Safety Tip

Art: Victoria Lane

Story: Stephan Pepe Hershenfeld



# Boys Varsity Soccer wins city title

Molloy's Varsity Boys Soccer team won its 12th CHSAA city title in school history on Nov. 1 by defeating Fordham Prep 1-0 at St. John's University's Belson Stadium.

Junior forward Patrick O'Grady scored the game's only goal five minutes into the match off a rebound of a shot by senior Bobby Montoni and the Stanner defense, led by junior goaltender Joe Ruocco, shut out Prep the rest of the way.

By winning its first city title in four years, Molloy advanced to the state playoffs at Adelphi University where it defeated Iona Prep on Nov. 7 but lost to St. Anthony's 4-1 in the state final.

Molloy opened the city playoffs by routing Farrell 5-0 on Oct. 25 on Randall's Island.

The Stanners then defeated St. Peter's 3-0 in the semifinals on Oct.

28 at Belson Stadium to advance to the city championship game.

Winning another city title seemed unlikely after Molloy got off to a 2-3-1 start to the season.

But the Stanners did not lose another game after Sept. 25 until losing in the state championship finals. Molloy finished the season with a 9-4-3 record.

Molloy's Junior Varsity Soccer team also advanced to the city title game but lost 1-0 to Xavier on Nov. 1 at Belson Stadium to finish the season with a 6-2-5 record.

Playing on its home field at Alley Pond Park, Molloy's JV defeated Xaverian 3-0 on Oct. 23 and St. Peter's 3-1 on Oct. 29 to advance to the final.

Athletic Director Mr. Mike McCleary said the JV's success was the result of, "a great team effort."



Stanners surround the St. Peter's goalie during Molloy's 3-0 victory in the city semi-final playoff game. (Photo by Mr. Jim Sheldon)

## Finishing 3rd in B-Q painful for Girls Varsity X-C

Molloy finished a disappointing third at the closely-contested CHSAA Brooklyn-Queens Sectional Cross Country Championships Oct. 25 in Van Cortlandt Park in the Bronx.

In a sport where the lowest score wins, Kearney finished first with 66 points, St. Francis Prep was second with 68, and Molloy was third with 73.

Sophomore Ilsen Hernandez was Molloy's top finisher, running the 2.5 mile course in 18 minutes, 44.60 seconds with frosh Kathleen Woods and Laura Banker finishing right behind her in 12th and 13th place.

Molloy's best runner, senior Katie Morreale, ran despite an injured ankle and struggled home in 22nd place.

"If she had been able to run her normal race, we would have won," said Coach Mr. Austin Power.

Mr. Power can take solace in the fact that none of his top five finishers were seniors and so Molloy should have a strong team next fall.

Meanwhile, senior Kristen Lasak won the individual title in the sectional junior varsity race.

Lasak's time of 19:45.84 over the 2.5 mile course was almost 30 seconds

ahead of second place finisher, sophomore Caitlin Burns.

Molloy won the two-team JV race over St. Francis Prep 15-53.

Molloy, competing against two other

teams, won the frosh sectional race run over a 1.5 mile course. Victoria Halvax finished second in 11:38.35 and Paulina Stefanowski was third in 11:43.24.

Here are Molloy's results:

### Varsity

**Team Scores:** 1. Kearney, 66; 2. St. Francis Prep, 68; 3. Molloy, 73; 4. Mary Louis, 109; 5. Loughlin, 193.

**Top Five Stanners:** 11. Ilsen Hernandez, 18:44.60; 12. Kathleen Woods, 18:45.45; 13. Laura Banker, 18:47.57; 16. Gabrielle Rosato, 19:00.41; 21. Lauren Conter, 19:30.28.

### Junior Varsity

**Team Scores:** 1. Molloy, 15; 2. St. Francis Prep, 53.

**Top Five Stanners:** 1. Kristen Lasak, 19:45.84; 2. Caitlin Burns, 21:14.13; 3. Stephanie Rey, 21:26.45; 4. Samantha Traslavina, 21:57.97; 5. Monica Martinez, 21:58.00.

### Frosh

**Team Scores:** 1. Molloy, 35; 2. St. Francis Prep, 51; 3. Christ the King, 108.

**Top Five Stanners:** 2. Victoria Halvax, 11:38.35; 3. Paulina Stefanowski, 11:43.24; 9. Kathleen Loftus, 12:15.79; 10. Tiana Salas Ali, 12:18.22; 11. Nicole Kelly, 12:30.38.



Katie Morreale, right, and Ilsen Hernandez lead a pack of Molloy runners at the Sectional Championship. (Photo by Ben Joson)

## Frosh win Boys X-C title, Varsity 3rd

Led by Walter Rodriguez and Tom Dreyer, Molloy Frosh Boys Cross Country team won the Brooklyn-Queens CHSAA Sectional Championship Oct. 25 in Van Cortlandt Park in the Bronx.

In a sport where the lowest score



Junior Devin Chowske

wins, Molloy took home the first place trophy by scoring 52 points to second place Xaverian's 83. Only the top five finishers score points for their team.

Rodriguez ran the 1.5-mile course in a time of 9 minutes, 56.31 seconds to finish in third place. Dreyer was fourth in 9:57.86.

The Boys Varsity, meanwhile, finished second to Ford in its 2.5 mile race.

The Stanners' strategy in the varsity race was to stick together in a pack in the hopes of getting their top five runners across the finish line ahead of any other team's top five.

Molloy executed its race plan to perfection as its top six runners, led by junior Devin Chowske, finished together in 10th through 15th place.

But that wasn't enough to win as Ford's top five runners all finished ahead of Chowske.

Ford beat nine other teams for the title with 26 points. Molloy was second with 60 points.

The bright spot for Molloy Coach Bro. Bob Andrews is the fact that while Ford graduates four of its top five finishers this spring, Molloy will return six of its top seven runners next year.

The only senior to score for Molloy's Varsity was captain Joe Mayer, who finished 11th.

Molloy should be the favorite to win the Brooklyn-Queens title next year.

Molloy also finished second in the four-team Junior Varsity race over a 2.5 mile course.

Molloy once again bunched its runners together and, led by junior Ernie D'Ambrose, swept places five through 14.

But Xaverian's runners swept the first four places to earn the first place trophy

by a score of 25-35 over Molloy.

### Varsity

**Team Scores:** 1. Ford, 26 points; 2. Molloy, 60; 3. St. Francis Prep, 100; 4. McClancy, 126; 5. Xaverian, 135.

**Top Five Stanners:** 10. Devin Chowske, 14:46.41; 11. Joe Mayer, 14:48.02; 12. Sean Collins, 14:54.56; 13. Tyler Bay, 5:59.7; 14. Dan Acosta, 15:05.96.

### Junior Varsity

**Team Scores:** 1. Xaverian, 25 points; 2. Molloy, 35; 3. Loughlin, 177; 4. St. John's Prep.

**Top Five Stanners:** 5. Ernie D'Ambrose, 15:49; 6. Brian Woods, 15:55.20; 7. Eric Treffeisen, 15:59; 8. Matt Powers, 16:01.00; 9. Eric Johnson, 16:15.00.

### Frosh

**Team Scores:** 1. Molloy, 52; 2. Xaverian, 83; 3. St. John's Prep, 113; 4. Loughlin, 121; 5. McClancy, 132.

**Top Five Stanners:** 3. Walter Rodriguez, 9:56.31; 4. Tom Dreyer, 9:57.86; 9. Robert Rossi, 10:24.69; 17. Randolph Herbert, 10:43.95; 19. Rolman Torres, 10:46.03