



Advent Liturgy  
sends a Xmas  
message

Page 4



Let your colors  
burst! What's  
your resolution?

Page 2

# THE STANNER

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ARCHBISHOP MOLLOY HIGH SCHOOL

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## Chorus ablaze with Christmas joy

By **Matthew Spataro '14**

Led by Director Mr. Jim Sheehan, the 88-member Junior-Senior Chorus made a wonderful start to the holiday season with its annual Christmas Concert full of joy and good cheer on Dec. 15 in the Jack Curran Gym.

The show featured 30 fabulous songs, including traditional carols such as "Joy to the World" and "Silent Night," some modern ones such as "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas" and "Christmas Shoes," and some new ones the chorus has never performed before such as "Be Light for Our Eyes," and a Brazilian jazz version of "O Come, O Come Emmanuel."

The Chorus, with a new group of juniors joining the veteran seniors, started practicing for the concert on Oct. 1.

"I am pleased with the cohesion of the new members' voices," Mr. Sheehan said.

In addition to performing for friends and families at night, chorus members gave a preview of the show at an assembly during the school day on Dec. 15.

The String and Guitar Ensembles shared the stage with the Chorus both times.

The members of the chorus were excited about the concert.

"I cannot wait for the Christmas Concert, even though it will be my last one as a student," said senior alto Stephanie Cruz.

Junior baritone Anthony Agosto, meanwhile, was looking forward to his first.

"I really enjoyed singing 'Winter Wonderland' because of the song's

**Continued on Page 6**



Chorus Director Mr. Jim Sheehan leads the Junior-Senior Chorus in song during the Thanksgiving Liturgy in the Jack Curran Gym. The Chorus performed its Christmas Concert Dec. 15 and will sing at the Christmas Liturgy Dec. 21. (Photo by Jordi Sevilla '14)

## All Stanners want for Christmas is...

By **Lily Mangialino '15, Sameera Kassim '13, Dina Mangialino '13**

Bing Crosby may have been dreaming of a "White Christmas," but Stanners have other things in mind this holiday season.

Many have high hopes of receiving something technology-related this Christmas.

Junior Amber Emmino and frosh AnnaLisa Piccolo want iPhones, while frosh Joe Guzzardo is hoping for an iPad. Guzzardo says this is on his wish list because "they're fast. Everybody wants one. And they're cool."

Frosh Margo Lopez and Gabbie Turk hope for laptops this Christmas, while junior Bruno DaSilva wants a MacBook pro laptop.

Junior Jessica Cardiello wants the new headphones, Beats by Dr. Dre.

Frosh Valerie Rico is hoping for a digital camera and soph Christina Otano wants a new phone.

Junior David Mieles is hoping for an iPod while classmate Chelsea Corinaldi is would like the video



What do Stanners hope to find under their trees on Christmas morning? (Photo by Monish Pahilajani '13)

game Skyrim.

Junior Rashanna Seymour hopes to see Taylor Swift's "Speak Now" concert DVD under her tree.

Although technology items seem popular, they are not the only gifts Stanners hope to find under their trees on Christmas morning.

Clothing is another popular choice and that is all that is on junior Annie Conlon's list.

Junior Jillian Spataro, a Harry Potter fan, hopes for a Ravenclaw scarf while classmate Lauren Velez hopes for a Ralph Lauren blazer.

Frosh Shannon Scott wants a pair of Ugg boots for Christmas, and junior Joe Ingrassia wants a new tie.

Sophomore Amelia Singh also wants nothing but clothes but added, "I would want gift cards to my favorite stores because I don't trust my dad's shopping."

Frosh Joe Savastano has more modest desires, hoping just for a pack of Sharpie pens because they are "so cool. They make [your handwriting] better."

**Continued on Page 5**



# Playing at Christmas & Coliseum

By Rita Guglielmo '14 and Jessica Kraker '14

For the first time, the String and Guitar Ensembles played together at this year's annual Christmas Concert on Dec. 15 in the Jack Curran Gym.

All String Ensemble members and advanced members of the Guitar Ensemble performed classical and Christmas music chosen by moderator Mr. Glenn DaGrossa.

The violinists and guitarists worked together for months before the concert.

"Having different instruments play in harmony isn't really too hard," said sophomore violinist Irina Arias. "You just have to practice to get it down."

Arias's favorite piece to play is "Canon in D," saying, "When we don't make many mistakes, it sounds awesome."

Fellow sophomore violinist Pamela Decolongon agreed, saying, "It sounds so beautiful and smooth on the violin."

Arias and Decolongon joined the String Ensemble when it was formed last year and both say

being in the ensemble has improved their skills since both hadn't played in awhile before joining.

After playing their Christmas Concert, where they shared the stage with the Junior-Senior Chorus, the String and Guitar Ensemble members will move on to play at the Nassau Coliseum, where they'll share the ice with the New York Islanders and play in front of a crowd that could be as many as 18,000 people.

The String and Guitar Ensembles will play on the ice between periods of an Islanders game in February.

Microphones will allow their music to be heard by the crowd and they will also be featured on the large video screens.

The Ensembles plan to play classical music and maybe some Beatles songs.

Arias and Decolongon are sure that the Ensembles will be well-prepared for that show.

Junior guitarist Michael Szymeczek said confidently, "There will be thousands of people there with all eyes on us, but we've got it covered."



The String Ensemble, above, and Guitar Ensemble, were eager to make their joint musical debut at the Christmas Concert. (Photos by Monish Pahilajani '13 and Rashanna Seymour '13)



## *Band's Christmas crazy and classical*



The Concert Band is seen performing one of a myriad of seasonal songs during last year's Christmas Concert in the Jack Curran Gym. This year's concert was held on Dec. 14 under new director Ms. Ya-Ting Yang. (Photo by Manpreet Kaur '12)

By Sarah Stiglianese '14

Molloy's Band celebrated every Stanner's favorite time of year with its annual Christmas Concert on Dec. 14 in the Jack Curran Gym, the first under new director, Ms. Ya-Ting Yang.

Ms. Yang was very eager to put on a great performance for her first time leading the show and so picked many famous Christmas songs for the concert, such as selections from "The Nutcracker Suite" to a medley of Christmas favorites called "A Crazy Mixed Up Christmas Concert."

Ms. Yang has also picked some less well known pieces such as the Ukrainian Bell Carol. She wanted to fill the show with more classical pieces than popular songs.

Although all the pieces are new to the band members, Ms. Yang said they are "slowly coming together," since practice started in mid-October.

Ms. Yang believes this year's band officers, seniors Andres Caamal, who plays the xylophone and chimes, and Thomas Hackimer, who plays the trombone, are really helping to pull the band together.

Even though there are no solo performances in the show, Ms. Yang is allowing some students to show off their talents by performing in small clarinet and flute ensembles.

Her goals are for the concert to have a festive Christmas spirit and for it to be enjoyable for the audience.

Junior Jacob Borkowski, who has been playing clarinet since third grade, said a week before the show that "practices are going well and we're getting more prepared."

Junior bass clarinet player Catalina Tapia said practices were going "all right" but hoped the band would get even better in its final week of rehearsals.

Tapia was eager for the Christmas Concert to happen so she could relax a little after all the intense preparation.

Both Borkowski and Tapia said their favorite pieces from the concert were the songs from "The Nutcracker Suite" and were sure it would please the audience.

Also performing at the show was the Freshman-Sophomore Chorus, which sang Christmas carols such as "Adeste Fideles," "Carol of the Bells," "Dona Nobis," which was sung in Latin, and "Il est Ne," sung in French.

Ms. Yang liked adding songs from different cultures, so the audience can get a feel of what Christmas is like around the world.

The Freshman-Sophomore Chorus will also perform some non-Christmas songs such as "This Little Light of Mine" and "For Good" from the play "Wicked."

# How did Santa, Xmas tree originate?

By Kirsten E. Paulson '13

The shopping centers have decked the malls with boughs of holly.

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas with signs declaring this season's holiday specials.

Bell-ringers on every street corner implore you to not be a Scrooge and donate even just a few coins to the poor.

The grand tree in Rockefeller Center is all lit up.

Children all over the city eagerly wait in line to meet Santa.

Meanwhile, Christians all over the world try to focus on the real meaning of the holiday as they



prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus.

The origin of Christmas as a major religious holiday is no big mystery. The secular aspects of the season, however, are.

Who on earth thought it would be a good idea to bring a tree into the house and decorate it? And who is this mysterious fat man in a red suit who enters homes unannounced to leave things rather than take them?

The Christmas tree has its roots in ancient cultures.

Almost all ancient people, including the Romans, Vikings, Druids, and even the Egyptians, held celebrations to commemorate the winter solstice.

They believed that during the late fall and early winter, the sun god was weak and sick. The winter solstice marked the beginning of his recovery, and boughs of evergreen trees were used to symbolize both eternal life and the plant life that would grow during the spring and summer.

Yet it wasn't until the 16th century in Germany that the more modern Christmas tree tradition began.

Christian families started bringing evergreen trees into their homes and decorating them with apples, nuts, pretzels, and other treats.

Martin Luther, the Protestant reformer, is widely credited with beginning the tradition of adding lighted candles to the tree.

By the end of the 18th century, Christmas trees were commonplace in German schools and inns, and eventually became popular in homes after the German army began displaying trees in barracks and hospitals.

In America, meanwhile, the use of Christmas trees was usually confined to German communities and was considered a pagan rite by other Americans.

It wasn't until British Queen Victoria and her German Prince Albert began putting Christmas trees in their home in the mid 19th century that their use became popular, both in England and America.

The most popular Christmas icon of all, Santa Claus, is the result of centuries' worth of folklore, history, and legend.

The inspiration for Santa Claus is the historical figure Saint Nicholas, a 4th century Greek bishop famous for his generosity to the poor.

The modern figure of Santa Claus began with the Dutch "Sinterklaas," a serious man in red bishop's robes who rode a gray horse over rooftops and delivered presents to good children.

In North America, where both Holland and England had colonies, the Dutch portrayal of the gift-giver merged with the British character of Father Christmas, creating the aura of a jolly old man dressed in red who flies on his sled to deliver gifts to boys and girls.

Washington Irving, in his book "History of New York," Americanized Sinterklaas into Santa Claus and replaced his bishop's robes with a green winter coat and a pipe.

The publication of the poem "The Night Before Christmas" created some of the more modern ideas of Santa: a sleigh with eight reindeer, a large sack of toys, a chimney used as an entrance.

The image was completed by Thomas Nast, a cartoonist who depicted Santa Claus as the heavysset man beloved by children world-wide; Nast is also believed to be the likely creator of the story that Santa Claus lives at the North Pole.

When we gather in our homes with friends and family to celebrate "the most wonderful time of the year," it's easy to forget that it's not all about Christmas trees and presents from Santa.

Whether you're Christian or not, the true spirit of Christmas is the spirit of generosity, good will toward all, and peace and love.

Merry Christmas!

## Liturgy's focus on selflessness at Christmas

By AnnMarie Gaglio '13 and Jillian Spataro '13

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas here at Molloy.

Christmas decorations are hanging all around the school, Christmas music is playing softly in the lobby, and Christmas vacation is coming, all of which means only one thing: The Advent Liturgy, a tradition beloved by Molloy students and alumni, is almost here.

The mass on Dec. 21, which will be said by Father Lachlan Cameron, will feature the theme of "Mary Makes the First Mark," carrying on the year-long liturgical theme of "The Marks of a Marist Student" that began with the Thanksgiving Liturgy.

Even though all of the liturgies this year will share a common theme, the Liturgy Committee's approach to the Advent Liturgy will be completely different from the Thanksgiving Liturgy.

Campus Ministry Director Mr. Mike Germano pointed out that, despite being put into a Catholic context for the Molloy liturgy, Thanksgiving is not an official Catholic holiday.

Since Advent celebrates the

preparation for the birth of Jesus, this liturgy will have a different tone than the last.

Liturgy committee member Samson Zachariah, a senior, hopes students will leave the liturgy with a deeper feeling for the real meaning of Christmas.

"Hopefully, we'll be able to change some attitudes of selfishness into attitudes of selflessness," he said.

Planning for the Advent Liturgy began in mid-November, said Mr. Germano, who expects a good turnout based on the success of the Thanksgiving Liturgy, which had over 515 students and 350 alumni in attendance.

Though Mr. Germano was pleased with that turnout, he expects fewer alumni to attend the Advent Liturgy due to busy holiday schedules.

Liturgy Committee member Lauren Maldonado, a junior, felt the Thanksgiving Liturgy was a success.

Zachariah's favorite part was "The Six Degrees of Separation."

"It was so beautiful to see how everyone can be so interconnected even though we are spread apart," Zachariah said. "But it's the Marist



Eucharistic Ministers surround the altar to offer the gifts at the Thanksgiving Liturgy. (Photo by Jordi Sevilla '14)

spirit that brings us together."

Mr. Germano hopes that students who haven't experienced a holiday liturgy at Molloy will give the Advent Liturgy a chance.

"Ask other students that go to liturgies for their experiences," he said.

The Liturgy Committee won't say what it has planned for the Advent Liturgy but Mr. Germano

promised it has "two pretty nice things happening."

Zachariah encourages all students to come to experience the Advent Liturgy.

"The beauty of the Molloy liturgy and the outstanding student body can only create marvels for everyone to experience at this mass," he said. "You'll just have to come and be amazed."

# Campus Ministry's Coat Drive donates 351 coats to shelter

By Darien Dey '14

Campus Ministry's Coat Drive donated 351 coats to the Briarwood Shelter last month.

The total fell short of both the of 424 coats donated in 2009, the last time the Coat Drive was held, and the all time record of 620 coats.

Although some Stanners donated coats to the drive, most of this year's coats were purchased using the \$2,500 raised by the homeroom mission collections.

Homeroom 4D was the school's top fund-raiser, donating a whopping \$300.61. 4C followed close behind with \$239.38.

Though some homerooms were able to collect a very generous amount, other homerooms donated little or nothing.

Campus Ministry Director Mr. Mike Germano believed that the amount of donations relies on a "perfect" balance between the effort put in by Campus Ministry's homeroom representative and the enthusiasm for the cause by the teacher and students.

"If everyone is on board, the results are wonderful," said Mr. Germano.

Junior Tatiana Requiño, a Campus Ministry member, said, "I enjoyed working on the Coat Drive. I think my best memory would be asking Mr. Mooney to open Mr. Germano's office door [to drop off coats] and he was surprised because I brought a big bag two days in a row."

Sophomore Pardeep Kaur of Campus Ministry was not really satisfied with the number of coats donated because she believed Molloy is such a large school that it could have given more.

"I enjoyed working in the Coat Drive mainly because I knew I was doing the right thing," she said. "But hopefully Molloy will be able to inform students about the Coat Drive in a more detailed and fun way next time so we can get more coats."

Campus Ministry thanks those who brought in coats or donated money.

## Stanners desire best electronic gifts of '11

Continued from page 1

Frosh Deanna Aliperti wants a puppy for Christmas but she isn't optimistic her wish will be granted "I've been asking for one since I was six years old!" she said with a laugh.

Other Stanners hope to find new relationships this Christmas season, whether it be new friends or, "even a boyfriend," joked Junior Ashwini Chawla.

All frosh Cynthia Navarro wants this Christmas is Justin Bieber giftwrapped under her tree.

Frosh Deidre Lydon says she's hoping for only one thing: to find snow outside on Christmas morning.

However, if Santa grants science teacher Mr. Jim Sheldon's Christmas wish, Lydon won't get hers.

Mr. Sheldon said the only thing he wants for Christmas is to have "no snow" for the entire winter season.

Other faculty members have more traditional Christmas wishes.

Social studies teacher Mr. Chris DeSarno hopes for an Xbox.

Science teacher Mr. John Attard hopes Santa will bring him a DVD recorder and "my mommy will buy me new shirts because I'm

oversized."

While Ms. Sabina Kobinski would be happy to get the game Catch Phrase, what she truly wants first and foremost this Christmas season is world peace.

Ms. Kobinski, along with several other Stanners, talked about the main point of this holiday season – to spend time with family and friends and realize how truly blessed they are.

"All I want more than anything this Christmas is simply to be with my family," said junior Rebecca Rivera. "Having my family around will make it easier to handle the first Christmas without the most caring and generous man I've ever met in my life, my grandfather."

Junior Derrick Yuen hopes for "health and happiness for all of my friends and family."

Junior Jayeda Newaz can't wait for her sister to return from college to spend the holidays with the entire family.

Ms. Lauren Kemmerer also said she is looking forward to spending Christmas with family and friends.

May your days be merry and bright this Christmas season!

Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year to all Stanners!



Juniors Francis Villamater and Dana Galizia and senior Karla Hernandez show off some of the toys that Stanners donated to the Christmas Toy Drive. (Photo by Monish Pahilajani '13)

## Toy Drive to aid local kids

By Megan Wenzler '12 and Sandy Zaw '12

Now that the holiday season is here, Campus Ministry is helping Molloy get into the Christmas spirit with various activities.

Campus Ministry started its annual Toy Drive on Dec. 5 by distributing forms which asked Stanners to buy individual toys for a specific child based on age and gender and bring it to the Theater.

But students didn't need to take a form to donate a toy.

The homeroom mission collection, which funds the purchase of the majority of the toys that are bought in bulk was held from Dec. 12-16.

Since 2005, Molloy has raised at least \$1,100 each year from Stanners and last year was able to donate 1,348 toys.

Campus Ministry Director Mr. Mike Germano hoped each homeroom would raise a minimum of \$40.

He said he has found that the Christmas spirit makes this drive the most successful of the year, "due to the fact that a lot of students think about their own childhood" and that makes them give to make another child's Christmas as special as theirs.

Germano said the toys will be distributed to The Briarwood

Shelter, Catholic Charities, St. John's Bread and Life, HeartShare and several local hospitals.

Although the Campus Ministry members aren't directly involved in the buying or distributing the toys this year, seniors Alyssa Dolan and Meagan Reed are still excited to be working on the Toy Drive.

"It's fun going into the toy stores and seeing what new toys they have out," said Reed.

Dolan gets a good Christmas feeling out of helping these kids "because their excitement is my excitement."

Another Christmas activity sponsored by Campus Ministry is Operation Christmas Child.

Students from all four grades, half of whom were first time contributors, helped put together 73 gift boxes to donate to Operation Christmas Child, which then sends them to poor children around the world. Mr. Germano hopes even more students will get involved next year.

Campus Ministry again this year sold Candy Cane Grams on Dec. 19 for \$1 each. Mr. Germano hoped to sell 2,000 candy canes.

With the help of Campus Ministry, Stanners got into the Christmas spirit by remembering that it is better to give than to receive.

# College admissions takes an instant

By Robert Dittus '15

A representative from St. Peter's College in Jersey City came to Molloy last month to offer "instant admission" to qualified seniors who came to the meeting in the Cafeteria.

Out of the 11 seniors who were interviewed about their possible college major and had their high school transcripts and SAT scores reviewed by the college's representative, all 11 were accepted and offered a total of \$154,000 in scholarships among them.

This month St. John's University, St. Joseph College of Brooklyn, and St. Francis College of Brooklyn visited Molloy to offer Stanners a chance at "instant admission."

After waiting in line in the Cafeteria along with about 50 other seniors for 30 minutes on Dec. 12, Natalie Look met with someone from St. John's Admissions Office for about five minutes.

After a brief interview during which time Look was asked if she wanted to live in the dorms at St. John's, she was offered admission and a generous scholarship to help

her pay the cost of tuition.

"I liked that the interview was quick but I think that next time they should have more admission officers so that we don't have to wait so long," said Look. "St. John's University is a popular school and having more admission officers would make the whole process more efficient."

Mr. Ted McGuinness, one of Molloy's two college guidance counselors, said, "This is our second year participating in this. A number of colleges offer instant admission, but it's mostly private schools."

Instant admission and any

scholarship money are standing offers and do not expire so the student does not need to accept on the spot in order to take advantage of them.

"I think this is a really good opportunity for students." Mr. McGuinness said. "It takes out a lot of the anxiety of applying to college, especially the waiting for the response, and removes the application fee. I would definitely suggest participating in instant admission, especially if you're interested in the college [making the offer]."

Mrs. Christine Loo, the other college counselor, was also very

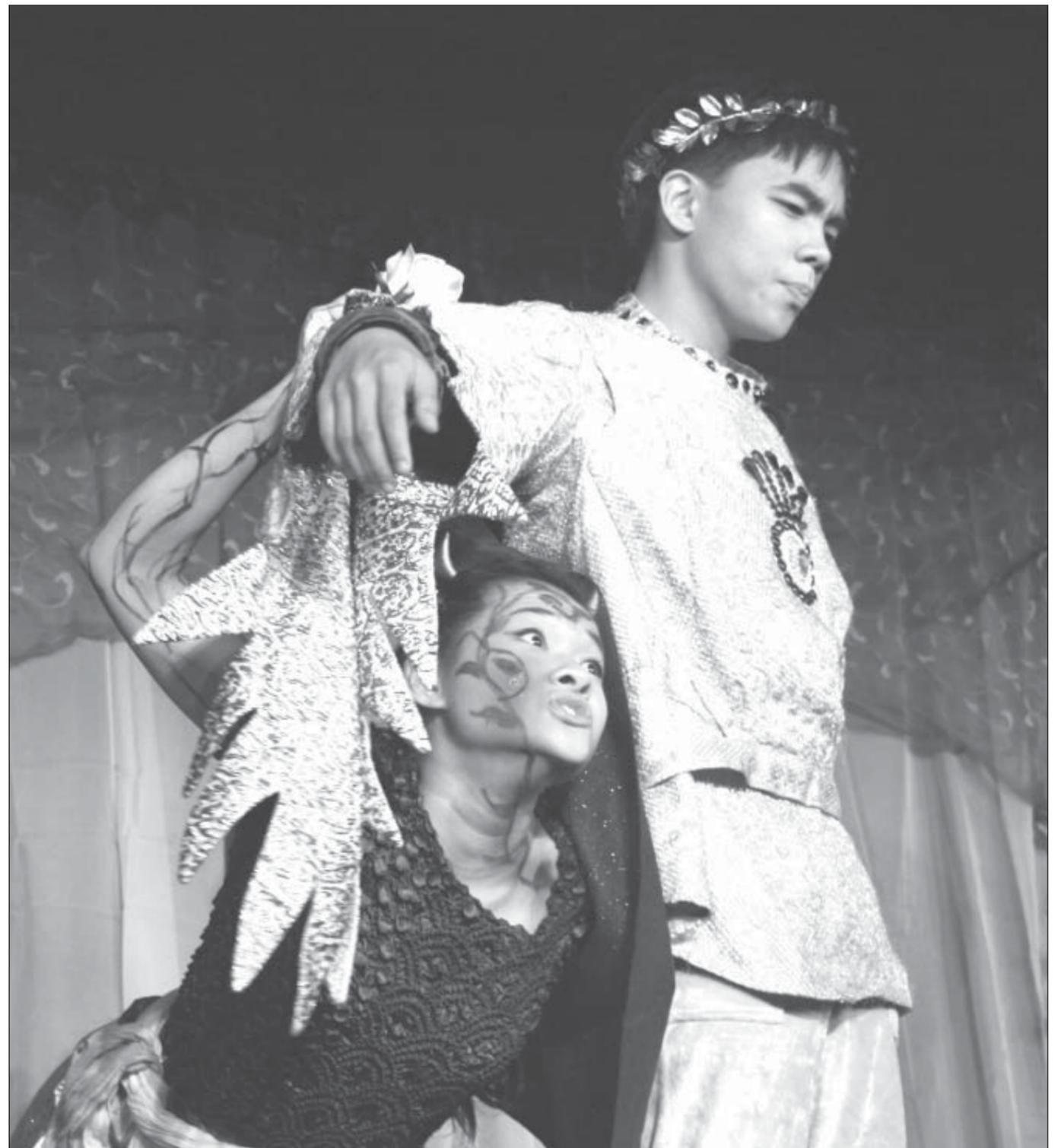
supportive of the idea.

"It's a great opportunity and I urge students to take advantage of it," she said. "If I were still in high school, I would apply for instant admission."

Mr. McGuinness is working hard to invite more colleges to come to Molloy to make offers of instant admission.

"It seems that colleges are coming to Molloy because they want our students," he said, adding that colleges are doing this for many reasons, but mostly to encourage good students who are involved in a number of activities to go to their school.

## 'Lord, what fools these mortals be!'



Seniors Adrienne Zhou as Puck and Niles Uy as Oberon discuss plans to bring back peace to Athens and Fairy Land in The Stanner Players' production of William Shakespeare's "A Midsummer Night's Dream" last month in the Theater. (Photo By Jordi Sevilla '14)

## Chorus sings some songs of the season

Continued from Page 1

nostalgia and the joy the lyrics bring!"

The following singers performed solos at the concert:

**Alyssa Plaia** ("Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord"); **Timothy Frenzel, Christopher Guevara and Niles Uy** ("We Need a Little Christmas"); **Melisa Adiram and Morgan Welsh** ("Infant Holy, Infant Lowly");

**Kayla Karsten and Kathleen Loftus** ("Go Tell It on the Mountain"); **Isabel Mendez, Tiana Salas-Ali, and Mareena Thottam** ("The First Noel"); **Erissa Mae Dumalo and Camille De Vera** ("Do You Hear What I Hear?");

**HoSung Ryoo** ("I'll Be Home for Christmas"); **Mary Gallagher** ("The Christmas Song"); **Adrienne Zhou** ("I Saw Mommy Kissing Santa Claus"); **Melissa Gabriel** ("Santa Baby"); **Olivia Balog and Agnieszka Czaja** ("Let It Snow");

**Stephanie Cruz and Gabriella Vasquez** ("White Christmas"); **Rebecca Alberg and Lauren Kelly** ("Frosty the Snowman"); **Julia Ross and Kevin Singh** ("Baby, It's Cold Outside"); **Michelle Miller** ("Winter Wonderland");

**Thomas Hackimer and Robert Rossi** ("Hallelujah"); **Alexandra Woods and Samson Zachariah** ("Coventry Carol"); **Andres Caamal** ("The Christmas Shoes"); **Tiffany McCue** ("What Are You Doing New Year's Eve?");

**Karen Desiste and Shannon Dinerman** ("Silent Night/ Night of Silence"); **Marc Ochs** ("O Antiphons"); **Laura Tanzil** ("All I Want for Christmas").

## Georghiou and Hannigan in National Merit semis

Seniors Christine Georghiou and William Hannigan, both of Homeroom 4D, have been named Semifinalists in the 2012 National Merit Scholarship Competition based on the results of the 2010 Preliminary SAT/National Merit

Scholarship Qualifying Test, which was taken by over 1.5 million students in October of 2010.

Ten other Stanners were awarded PSAT/NMSQT certificates of commendation by the College Board in Princeton, N.J.:

Maverick Alzate; Jeffrey Cheng; Jennifer Hwu; Christina John; James D. Kasakyan; Marilena Orfanos; Margaret Rooney; Victoria Tan; Samantha Walker; and Alexandra Woods.

# Project on climate research starts

By **Monish Pahilajani '13 and Rashanna Seymour '13**

People using smartphones, television, and cars tend to disregard what their effects are on the climate. Who has time to care about such a petty topic?

Climatologists do.

And so does Molloy's Science Research Team.

Sophomore Andrew Muscarella, juniors Stephanie Bonanno, AnnMarie Gaglio, Julian Leston, Shilpa Mathews, Shilin Mathews, Param Dave, seniors Maverick Alzate, and Christina John will

partner with Bethpage High School to work on a three-year climate comparison between urban and suburban areas.

The team will be mentored by Dr. Brooks of Queens College and scientists at NASA GISS center in Manhattan.

Gaglio got involved with the program after talking to her teachers.

"Everyone said I was capable, and I love science, so I joined," said Gaglio. "I have no regrets."

The students met with NASA scientists at GISS on Nov. 9 to

discuss their research plan with the climate scientists.

"I was extremely proud to see them act so professionally," said Ms. Mary Mallia, the group's moderator.

Said Gaglio, "The scientists were really positive and gave excellent advice on how to make the project stand out."

Molloy was happy to be matched with Bethpage High School.

"The Bethpage students were very friendly to us and I am looking forward to working with them again," said junior Shilpa Mathews.

The students will communicate by e-mail to compare data, such as cloud accumulation and formational patterns.

The teams will measure the solar energy coming into a planter and the reflectivity of insolation on different materials, such as concretes and rooftops.

The data will be collected with weather probes and other instruments provided by Queens College and the Institute for Earth Science Research under the Climate Science Research grant.

At the end of each year, students from the team will graduate, and new members will fill their places on the research team.

"The fact that this is a long term project should not turn people off

to joining, but should instead encourage them to play a part in a fantastic journey to embrace curiousness," said Mathews. "See Ms. Mallia if you are interested in joining us."

After three years, the students will present their research at a science fair.

Molloy was invited to participate in the project by Queens College, Ms. Mallia said.

She hopes this experience will enable students to gain knowledge and motivation to keep on studying their passion to change the world one step at a time.

"An extra boost to the students' college resume for participating in this assignment also is a good perk," Ms. Mallia said with a chuckle.

Gaglio said, "I hope to change the way future generations look upon climate. It is a very serious topic. Everything affects climate whether it's beneficial or not. We need to take care of Mother Earth."

Junior Shilpa Mathews hopes to become a scientist and work with climate in the future.

"I love looking at clouds whenever I am stressed. It's such a great tool in procrastination. Now I am working with clouds. Who knew I could channel my guilty pleasure into something beneficial for the world?" she said.



Molloy Science Research team will study the urban climate for the next three years. (Photo courtesy of The Beehive)

# Mock Trial ready to make its case

By **Anna Poulakas '14**

Moderator Mr. Lou Barbera had a very difficult time deciding from among the 26 students who tried out for the six open spots on Molloy's Mock Trial team when tryouts were held on Nov. 30 and Dec. 1.

Mr. Barbera was looking for students with confidence, a good memory, poise under pressure, excellent public speaking skills and the ability to get into character, among other qualities, and he was very impressed with many of the Stanners that came to tryout.

However, on Dec. 12 he announced that juniors Chelsea Corinaldi, Monish Pahilajani and Thalia Toro, sophomore Samantha Sattler, and frosh Roy Colter, Robert Dittus, and Tricia Mahan had made the team.

Sattler said she was excited when she heard the news she had made the team and is looking forward to being a part of a mock trial.

The returning members seniors Brando Fermin, Jonathan Infante, Francis Marino, Michael Mesa, and Sean Ramzan, juniors Patricia Bober, Jessica Cardiello, William Millus, Sitara Patel, and Cara

Salvatore, and sophomores: Emily Hernandez and Chinyere Okogeri, did not have to try out.

"Mock Trial is a great way to gain experience and see yourself in an attorney's shoes," said Okogeri, who hopes to become a lawyer in the future. "Getting experience in the court room through Mock Trial is a great way to familiarize yourself with all the aspects of the court."

Mr. Barbera said many of the students who went to him the day of the tryout to pick up the paper with the tryout information on it had the parts perfectly memorized at the tryout.

He was impressed with their ability to learn something so well in such a short time span, and their ability to get into character.

Now that the team has been chosen, it will begin to prepare for the annual New York City Mock Trial competition, which attracts teams from over 100 schools, and is run by The Law, Youth, and Citizenship Program, a subdivision of the New York State Bar Association.

Mr. Barbera is glad to see that this year's case is more interesting

than it has been in past two years when it involved parking tickets and embezzlement.

This year Stanners will be arguing an assault case which deals with a victim getting hit with a tire iron.

Molloy's first match will be in late February at the Queens County Criminal Court on Queens Blvd.

Team members participating in the trial change into business attire, and walk to the courthouse to argue the case before a judge who picks the winning team, which advances to the second round. Molloy usually finds out who its opponent will be a week before the match.

Mr. Barbera says he hopes his team can do as well or better than last year when Molloy advanced to the second round of the competition for the first time before losing a very close decision.

Mr. Barbera said the team will meet once before the Christmas break to discuss some general ideas about the trial and begin practice in January.

The Mock Trial team often attracts students who want to be lawyers.

"A number of kids show a great potential and should pursue it," said Mr. Barbera, a law school graduate himself.

## 15 Stanners are AP stars

Fifteen seniors have earned the Advanced Placement Scholar Honor Award from the College Board based on their outstanding achievement on AP Exams.

The award is granted to students who receive an average score of 3.25 or higher on all AP Exams they have taken and scores of 3 or higher on four or more of those exams.

Archbishop Molloy's award winners were:

Wilfrido Castillo, Jonathan Cortez, Jackelyne Diaz, Myrna Hanna, Jennifer Hwu, Christina John, Lauren Kelly, Shannon Megale, Jessica Montes, Monika Nowak, Mia Polizzotto, Sergio Rodriguez, Michelle Rondon, Margaret Rooney, and Alexandra Woods.

# Fab first Open Mic show of year

By Stephanie Bonanno '13 and  
Jaclyn Eng '13

The first of three Open Mic shows at Archbishop Molloy High School was held on Dec. 6 in the Theatre and featured 17 students performing for free before an audience of their classmates.

"The goal of the show is for students to perform and show off their musical talents," said Mr. Frank Gambino, the show's organizer.

The two-hour show, which began at 5 p.m. to give organizers enough time to set up, gave those students an opportunity to earn a place on the bill for Molloy's annual Talent Show in April.

Junior Jorge Velez, who

performed at an Open Mic show for the first time, sang and played guitar for "Cat-like Thief" by Box Car Racer and "Jude Law and a Semester Abroad" by Brand New.

"I've been waiting a month, so I'm pretty stoked!" he said before taking the stage. Velez remembers watching last year's shows and his favorites included Marjorie Coello and Gisella Dionio, who also performed in this year's Open Mic.

Junior Tiffany Adrien, who performed on piano for the second year in a row, played Beethoven's "Pathetique, First Movement."

Adrien was excited because she knows that the Open Mic shows serve as gateway into the Talent Show in the spring.



"I hope to also perform at the Talent Show," Adrien said.

Juniors Cara Salvatore, Melissa Foley, and Jennifer Foley performed "Rolling in the Deep" by Adele, with Salvatore singing while the Foleys played guitars.

This was Salvatore's first time performing at Open Mic.

"I saw Melissa and Jen play guitar last year to a Taylor Swift song and I thought they did a great job," Salvatore said.

Jennifer Foley said before the show, "It's our second time performing and we're really looking forward to it."

Students who perform in the Open Mic shows usually are the first performers selected to perform in the Talent Show held in the Jack Curran Gym during Spirit Week.

"There has been a Talent Show held at Molloy for over ten years," said Mr. Gambino.

The performers at the first Open Mic show of the year were:

Tiffany Adrien; Sore Agbaje; Erica Agustin; Angela Caruso; Marjorie Coello; Gisella Dionio; Melissa Foley; Jennifer Foley; Daniel Marino; Louiza Molohides; Arianna Prokos; Robert Rossi; Carla Salvatore; Karla Silva; Allison Terranova; Constantina Tsouklidis; and Jorge Velez.

At the Open Mic show, juniors Melissa and Jennifer Foley, above, played guitars to back up junior Cara Salvatore, below, singing "Rolling in the Deep" by Adele. Junior Danny Marino, left, astrums and sings. (Photos by Manpreet Kaur '11)



## Faculty routs seniors in football

Unlike the softball game, which the seniors forfeited for not having enough players to field a team, the Class of 2012 did manage to play the annual Seniors vs. Faculty Football Game on Nov. 17.

However, the outcome may have made them wish they hadn't.

Led by quarterback Mr. Brad Lyons, the faculty defeated the

seniors, 42-28.

The faculty jumped out to a 42-7 lead before the seniors made a comeback to make the final score more respectable.

The Class of 2012 will have a chance to even the annual athletic series against the faculty by winning the basketball and volleyball games in the spring.

# Girls dominate 1st Principal's List

As has been the case since its inception, the Principal's List was once again dominated by girls, as 72 percent of students earning an overall average of 99 or better for the First Marking Period were female.

Sixty-eight girls were among the 94 Stanners who earned a spot on the List.

Seniors had the smallest number of qualifiers (15) and the juniors had the most (32), followed by sophomores (28) and frosh (19).

Girls were 80 percent of the seniors who made the Principal's List, 72 percent of juniors, 68 percent of sophomores, and 58 percent of frosh.

The following Stanners qualified for the Principal's List for the First Marking Period of the 2011-12 academic year:

**Frosh:** Jafar Ali; Isabelle Artes, Mary Angeline Bacani, Phillip Barsamian, Izidora Bozic, Gabriella Bruno, Mary Serene Carino, Sebastian Chamorro, Justin Esposito, Ewa Gerlak, Carla Hanna, Raphael Jafri, Patryk Jakubowski, Hyunwoo Jeung, Margarita Lopez, Andreea Muntean, Joseph Schauer, Maria Troia, Lauren Urbano.

**Sophomores:** Adam Bakatsias; Jessica Beck; Dhanesh Binda; Thomas Brinskelle; Pamela Decolongon; Tiffany Dial; Sebastian Geraci; Samantha Grech; Georgios Gulino; Emily Hanna; Edrean-Neil Kabigting; Katherine Kilkenny; Nicole Korzeniecki; Emily Lewis; Mariyanthie Linaris; Felicia

Mendoza; Louiza Molohides; Kristian Mosquito; Taylor Moss; Daniel O'Reilly; Crsitina Otano; Shannon Pizzella; Bernadette Rooney; Samantha Sattler; Matthew Spataro; Anthony Valenzuela; Tiffany Villacis; Branden Warders.

**Juniors:** Derrick Adam; Ololade Afolayan; Roberto Bertolini; Patricia Bober; Jacob Borkowski; Ashwini Chawla; Chelsea Corinaldi; Graziella Ferrara; Carina Gomez; Daniela Gordillo; Maria Grbic; Jessica Hannon; Joseph Ingrassia; Marcin Krol; Julian Leston; Dina Mangialino; Shubin Mathews; Aislinn Messina; Soumya Misra; Anna Maria Musso; Monish Pahilajani; Sitara Patel; Toni Ann Petovello; Tatiana Requiyo; Cara Salvatore; Rashanna Seymour; Steffi Shilly; Kiara Sigcha; Jillian Spataro; Christine Stanolevich; Derrick Yuen; Shalini Zachariah.

**Seniors:** Jackelyne Diaz; Alyssa Dolan; Vasiliki Gliagias; Melissa Jo Hernandez; Jennifer Hwu; Lauren Kelly; Kathleen Loftus; Leanne Motylenski; Julian Olbinski; Joanne Raptis; Sergio Rodriguez; Margaret Rooney; Andrew Rozo; Raymond Sukhdeo; Alexandra Woods.

*Merry Christmas  
and  
Happy New Year  
from  
The Stanner*