

THE STANNER



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ARCHBISHOP MOLLOY HIGH SCHOOL

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The Stanner Still Stands!

Staff makes news at The Tablet High School Press Awards by Maria Gulino '16

The Stanner has been a thriving part of Archbishop Molloy's history, including over the past decade with Mr. McKenna as moderator. Continuing his legacy, Mr. Sommo, Ms. Sawyer, and Ms. Cardone accepted the challenge of filling his role. They've proved to be a perfect fit, but finding them came only after another new moderator could not fulfill the position. Although *The Stanner* had a late start this year, the Molloy newspaper managed to do quite well at The Tablet Catholic High School Press Awards.

On May 6th, The Stanner staff took the train to the Diocese office in Brooklyn for the ceremony. Molloy won second place for Best Front Page, second place for Best Sports Story for "Girls Varsity Swim Team Goes Undeclared for 2015-16 Season" by Harry Singh, third place in Best Personality Profile for "Stanner High

Appoints Mr. Penikas as Principal" by Peter Maisano and Sargam Mehra, third place in Best News Story for "Pope Francis Visits New York City" by Rose Maisano and Maria Gulino, and second place in General Excellence. Molloy also received an honorable mention for "Molloy Basketball Firing All Cylinders" by Peter Paolo.

"I was very proud of our accomplishments. We put in a lot of hard work this year to maintain The Stanner's reputation, and I'm grateful to have been a part of the staff," Rose Maisano said of being honored.

"It was a pleasure to work with the staff this year because we had many hard working reporters and production crew. Their ideas and dedication are what drove our success this year. I was just along for the ride," said Mr. Sommo. The award ceremony was broadcast on the catholic channel NET TV that night.



Maria Gulino with Ed Wilkinson, Editor in Chief of The Tablet.



Left to right: Ms. Sawyer, Stacy Kanellopoulos, Rose Maisano, Peter Maisano, Maria Gulino, Tablet Youth Editor Maria-Pia Negro Chin, Mr. Sommo, and journalist Peter Feuerherd. Photos by The Tablet.



Peter Maisano with Jorge Dominguez, Editor in Chief of Nuestra Voz.

Spring Musical Bittersweet for Senior Stanner Players

by Samantha Racan '16

On April 14th, the Stanner Players debuted their spring musical, *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*. It was the last performance for seventeen of the Stanner Players, all seniors off to college in the fall. The comedy about a quirky spelling bee with quirky contestants in the fictional Putnam Valley Middle School was a huge success in the Molloy community. Senior Anastasia Bizios felt that the musical was "by far one of the funniest musicals" she has ever seen.

Molloy's spring musical created a wide range of emotions for its cast, crew and audience. Through its entirety, the musical definitely created mixed feeling for its audience—from the comedy produced by the plot to the life lessons learned from the characters. As for the cast and crew, the musical brought forth humor, of course, but at the same time it also brought a feeling of sadness as this was the last time they would perform in Molloy's theater.

Senior Chris Autera has been a member of the Stanner Players since his junior year and reflected on the "amazingly open and accepting community"



The Stanner Players put on a great show this spring. Photo by Ms. Sawyer.

the Players created for him and for others, and that it didn't matter that he joined the group at the second half of his Molloy career. "This is due in part to our amazing director, Ms. Winters," he said.

Chris also went on to say, "... I was backstage with Ms. Winters during intermission before the second half of the show began and I turned to her and said "wow, I guess this really is our final act." And that's when it hit me. Not only is this the final act of our show, but THIS is our final act as seniors."

As the end of the school year rapidly approaches, it approaches even faster for seniors, as their school year comes to an abrupt end on May 25th. For seniors, the last few weeks are spent making the best of their final days as high school students. For senior members of the Stanner Players, this already happened at the end of their final show. Next year, all of them will move on to new and exciting things in new and exciting places. Regardless, as the old and often repeated adage goes, "Once a Stanner Player, always a Stanner Player!"

The Stanner newspaper staff congratulates the Stanner Players on all of their success!

Check out who won the Senior-Faculty Basketball Game on page 8!

Molloy's Seniors Take on Disney

by Andrew Wenzler '17

On March 16th, the Class of 2016 went on Molloy's annual senior trip to Walt Disney World in Orlando Florida. This was Assistant Principal Mr. Ken Auer's first year running the trip.

"It went well," said Mr. Auer. "It was the most students ever to go on the trip to Disney. It was a lot more work [this year] but was enjoyable getting to know everyone."

Stanners stayed at the Port Orleans Riverside Resort, and went to all four theme parks. Many seniors had a very fun and magical experience. This was Senior Shoma Nath's third time in Disney, and it was her favorite too.

"It was a lot of fun," said Nath. "It was great getting to spend the trip with people from my grade that I wouldn't get to hang out with otherwise."

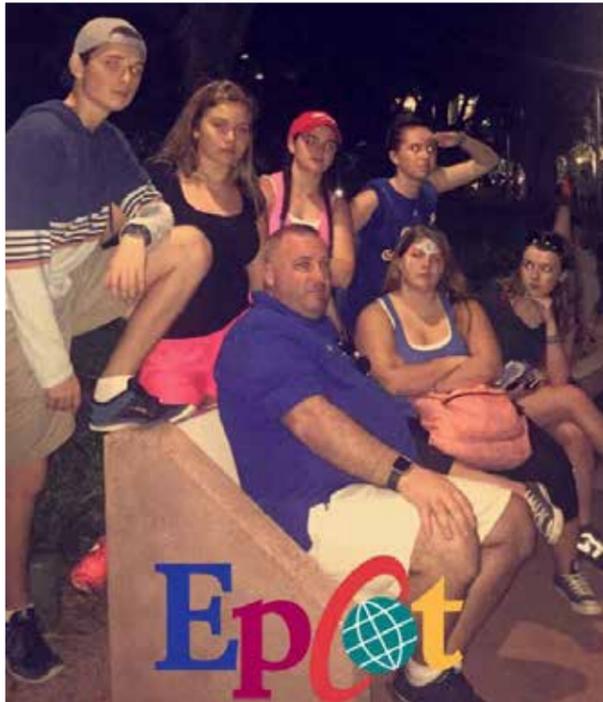
Nath's favorite part of the trip was seeing the World Showcase in Epcot, saying "It made me feel like we were in different countries rather than Florida."

Senior Christina Gaglio said she enjoyed eating lunch with her friends in Pinnocchio's Village Haus in the Magic Kingdom.

"We found a table near a window facing 'It's a Small World,'" said Gaglio. "Watching the many people pass was just like I was eating back home in New York."

Gaglio also said that this trip helped teach her some valuable life lessons, while having fun in the "Most Magical Place on Earth."

"The trip not only gave me the opportunity to learn to handle myself (and my money!) for a long period of time, but it also gave me the chance to go on an adventure with my friends before we



graduate."

Senior Patrick Wlodokowski loved his first trip to Disney, and believes it lived up to the hype.

"I expected a lot since my friends told me how great Disney is, and they hyperbolized it by saying 'you haven't lived until you've gone to Disney.'" said Wlodokowski. "Though I raised the bar high the trip was still even better than I expected."

Wlodokowski's favorite ride was Rockin' Rollercoaster Starring Aerosmith, claiming it was "hands down the fastest ride I've ever been on."

Mr. Auer is looking into a trip for the class of 2017, "as long as there is enough interest."



Left: Seniors hang out with Mr. Auer in Epcot.

Top Right: Charlie, Rose, and Peter Maisano pose in front of Cinderella's Castle

Bottom Right: Seniors race their way through Test Track.

Photos continued on page 4

Stanners Save Lives One Pint at a Time

by Maria Aliberti '16

Archbishop Molloy held its 16th annual Blood Drive on March 22nd, where over 90 generous Stanners donated 104 pints of blood. The Long Island Division of the New York Blood Center collected these 104 gifts of life, and distributed them to hospitals throughout Queens and Long Island. About 22 Stanners were deferred from donating due to recent piercings, tattoos, or sicknesses. A few students were also deferred due to recent trips

to foreign countries that hold possible risks of diseases, such as malaria. Students who attended Molloy's service trip to Jamaica just a month before the drive were allowed to donate, since Jamaica is not considered to be one of the countries on the deferred list.

Junior Gabriel Tineo '17, a brave first time donor, had a very exciting experience. "After they took just my red blood cells, they pumped the leftover blood back into my arm," Tineo continued joking, "it looked like my arm blew up, like I was on steroids!" The girl seated next to Gabriel had passed out as well, leaving him a little anxious. All in all, Tineo enjoyed the opportunity to save someone's life. "I would give all of my blood if I could...I

would even tell them to wring out my organs if it meant that I could give life to another person."

Senior Matthew Frenzel '16 enjoyed his second time donating blood for Molloy in March, but does admit that it wasn't all fun. "After I donated, I did feel a little light headed when I stood up." However, the New York Blood Center provided many snacks and beverages for all donors to keep their blood sugar levels raised throughout the day. Frenzel says he would jump at the opportunity to donate blood again in the future, saying, "It made me feel like I was doing something good for the world, even if I didn't get to see the outcome of when someone received my blood."

Mrs. Forgione, our Stanner nurse, would like to thank all who donated their time and blood this year, including the student volunteers.



Top: Mark Hilario '16 was a donor during Molloy's Blood Drive. Bottom: Stanners wait to give blood. Photos taken by Mr. Joe Sommo.

THE STANNER VOLUME LIX, NUMBER III

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Moderators:	Ms. Laura Sawyer '07, Mr. Joe Sommo '03, & Ms. Amanda Cardone
Publishers:	Mr. Darius Penikas & Mr. Richard Karsten '81

Molloy Has A 'Sweet' Time in Europe

by Jeffrey Twumasi '17

Molloy's 2016 Europe Trip featured stops to cities such as Venice, Italy; Salzburg, Austria; Oberammergau, Germany; Lucerne, Switzerland and Lake Maggiore, Italy.

Ms. Dorothy DeNoto, the Group Organizer of the trip, said that one of the most powerful experiences that happened to her was the spirituality felt in Oberammergau. "It touched me so much," she said. "When I walked through there, I felt so at one with God." The most entertaining event for the chaperones and students was the Mozart's dinner concert in Salzburg. "It was astounding. We were actually taken aback in time to how people dressed, spoke, ate, acted and were entertained back in that time period." The students made their own Venetian masks in Venice, which Ms. DeNoto said was the most interesting, interactive activity of the trip. They each got to take home the ultimate prize—their own mask!

Ms. DeNoto and the administration were very aware of the repercussions of the terrorist attacks that occurred right before the trip in France. "We were in constant communication with the tour company and with the State Department to ensure that the areas that we were going to were deemed safe", Ms. DeNoto said. Security was especially tight in JFK and Italy. The students' parents were able to be part of the trip as it occurred via the Facebook group page AMHS Cappuccino and Chocolates. Pictures were updated as the trip progressed with short periods of time of the actual events. "The parents felt like they were there with their kids. It made them feel more secure about safety issues," said Ms. DeNoto.

Next year's trip will feature Greece, mainland Southern Italy (Sorrento, Pompeii), the island of Capri, and Sicily. The trip is already 75% full.

"Being part of opening the students' eyes to the world was awe-inspiring," said Ms. DeNoto. "I felt

vibrantly alive. We all felt like we were part of ancient history. We were connected to our past with all that we saw. That changed all of us in profound ways."

Some of what the group did in Europe were boat trips to or from the Lido Beach, Venice; Lake Lucerne, Switzerland, and Lake Maggiore, Italy. They also had dinner with a live Swiss Band on a



Stanners pose in front of the Neuschwanstein Castle in Germany. Photo by Ms. DeNoto.

boat in Switzerland at the William Tell Paddle-Wheeler Restaurant. The dinner consisted of Swiss food and dancing, cheese fondue, and lovely views of mountains and Lake Lucerne from the ship's deck and dining rooms.

Junior Gabriella DeVito was one of the students who traveled. She noted, "The best thing that happened was honestly everything. I had the most amazing time and couldn't even begin to pick a best thing!" Nothing of negative quality had

happened on the trip for DeVito. The only irritating part she stated was, "The rules given by the chaperones were sometimes annoying." DeVito had learned a significant amount in Europe saying, "I learned so much about the different cultures, how the people acted, the society differences, etc. I also got to try so many new foods and experience so many different atmospheres. I even learned words from different languages!" When asked what it was like to travel Europe, DeVito answered, "Going around Europe with my friends was probably the best experience I have had and I will cherish that for the rest of my life. In Europe, we visited four different countries and got to learn all about the cities we visited, the languages, the food, and the way people lived, etc. I enjoyed every minute of it even if I didn't like some of the food I tried!"

Junior Jacqueline Orgera also went on this trip commenting that, "I think my favorite part of the trip was seeing the Swiss Alps because I have never seen anything quite so beautiful! Everyone was in awe of the mountains as well. They looked unreal, like a painting!" Orgera had kept a log of her travels in Europe. "Ms. DeNoto had us keep a journal every day and I am glad I did. Now, when I read the journal I remember how I felt while I was there. I read it and I smile. So many great memories." Orgera had also acquired some knowledge from this trip saying, "In Italy we learned about the masks people wore during Carnivale, then we made our own masks. We had a great time painting and we were laughing the whole time." After the trip, Orgera said, "When I got home I showed my mom all the pictures I took and I explained everything we did. Italy, Germany, Austria, and Switzerland, everywhere we went was very different. We experienced the beauty of each country and I wish I could go back!"

Spirit Week: Another Successful Year

by Perry Chresomales '16 & Rose Maisano '16

The senior class won Molloy's 2016 Spirit Week thanks to their participation in the week's events. The win earned them a dress down day on April 22 as a reward. Juniors were second, sophomores third, and freshmen fourth.

Spirit Week 2016 debuted six new events while bringing back many of the activities from last year, said Director of Student Activities Ms. Liz Murdocca.

Ms. Murdocca said that after much discussion among the school's Spirit Leaders about possible new events, they voted to add Molloy Lip Sync Battle, Twin/Scrabble Day, Fictional Character Dress Day, Faculty Transportation Match, and the "Spare a Dime" collection to help homeless teens.

Senior Spirit Leader Stacy Kanellopoulos said they put in a lot of hard work coming up with the new events. She was happy to see a good turnout and students having fun, showing that all their hard work paid off.

Senior Padelis Astrinidis said the new dress down days were "cool." Senior Klay Plakas said that Character Day and Decades Day were good classics to bring back, and a lot of fun to participate in.

In addition to the six new events, the week also saw the return of Pajama Day, The Amazing Stanner Race and Stanner Games because of their popularity with students in the past.

Ms. Murdocca and Stacy Kanellopoulos agreed that the week's most popular event was The Amazing Stanner Race since the roster to compete filled up quickly.

Ms. Murdocca said that the Spirit Leaders were awesome in helping her plan the week and that she was grateful for all of their hard work.

The administration decided last year to change Spirit Week from its traditional week-long series of events to four Spirit Days occurring on the four Wednesdays in April, and it appeared that way on the 2015-2016 school calendar.

The decision to convert Spirit Week into four Wednesday Spirit Days was made to prevent events from being jammed together, to relieve stress, and to try something different, said Ms. Murdocca.

But the Spirit Days idea was changed after students spoke out in favor of the traditional Spirit Week and their arguments changed her mind, Ms. Murdocca said. Spirit Week will be a week-long event next year as well.

During Spirit Week, homerooms were encouraged to "Spare a Dime" and fill up two-liter soda bottles with nickels and dimes to raise money to help the homeless.

This was chosen as this year's charity because the homeless population is the highest it's been since the Great Depression and "it is deplorable that



Students play Tug of War as part of Stanner Games during Spirit Week. Photo by Ms. Sawyer.

this many people are living on the streets," said Ms. Murdocca.

There was a large turnout in the number of homerooms that filled the bottles, which is no surprise for the many generous Stanners at Molloy.

Ivy League Disaster Common?

by: Alejandro Montoya '16

The class of 2016, when compared to the statistics of previous years, showed to be similar in Ivy League acceptance rates, but when looking at other very competitive schools showed more improvement and variety.

Mr. Gus Esgro, one Molloy's college guidance counselors, said, "Looking at acceptance rates for Ivy Leagues alone it would seem that the graduating Class of 2016 was comparable to classes in the past. However, when you delve deeper into numbers this class has had more students accepted into very selective non-Ivy League schools this year."

Examples include the University of Notre Dame, Barnard College, Vassar College, Amherst College, University of California Berkeley, Duke, and Carnegie Melon just to name a few.

Ivy Leagues such as Harvard have very low acceptance rates compared to the number of students that apply. At Harvard out of the 37,307 applicants only 2,080 were admitted, which is only about 5.6 percent out of all applicants.

Mr. Esgro wasn't surprised that Molloy had low acceptance rates. "All the Ivy League acceptance

rates are relatively low when compared to many other selective schools. This is because these schools are receiving tens of thousands of applications for a relatively small amount of seats in the incoming freshman class," he said.

Senior Charlie Maisano had similar thoughts on this. He said, "I'm not surprised, because the Ivy Leagues are highly competitive schools, and even though Molloy students are great, there are still thousands of students around the world applying to these prestigious schools."

Mr. Sheehan, the AP Composition teacher, said he was, "a little surprised by the amount of people who got in. It is one of the strongest years we've had and it makes me wonder what universities are using for criteria for acceptances."

Even though the Ivy League acceptance rates were low, Mr Esgro felt that this year's class overall got into more competitive schools than before. He said, "The Class of 2016 had the proclivity needed to get into more selective schools around the country. They were definitely prepared to do the research and put in the time."

For future college applicants Mr. Esgro said that, "College applications matter for your overall individual credentials and what you can you bring to the table. A lot of the time getting accepted isn't just black and white, it is purely based on what schools are looking for."



Seniors Elizabeth Andrade and Chris Autera earlier this year at the NHS Academic Awards in 2015. Photo by the Yearbook Staff.

New Coding Club Is Not Just a Bunch of Hacks

by Ryan Prasad '16 and John Ambert '16

Pretending to hack into the Twitter website is just one of the many projects members of the new Coding Club have completed since its founding last October. This is a computer skill that may help dictate their future careers, the moderator said.

"They have pretended to hack Twitter, made a website, made an album cover, and more," said Moderator Ms. Danielle Choo.

The Twitter hack created the most buzz amongst club members.

"It was pretty interesting and fun to see where the Twitter site needs improvement and how to fix it," said senior Peter Maisano. "It's interesting to be able to create a new website or figure out how a certain site like Twitter works."

Senior Samantha Racan said, "I made my own

website in one lab. It was pretty cool to design my own website and experience how other people design the sites I use everyday."

Molloy introduced the Coding Club, led by Ms. Choo and club president and senior Maria Gulino, as a way to add a more technology-related club to the list of extracurricular activities.

Molloy's administration considers this a valuable club because coding is a skill that is in very high demand.

"Coding is quickly becoming a skill that is valued by employers and so learning how to do it is a way for students, and job candidates, to separate themselves from other applicants," said Principal Mr. Darius Penikas. "This club has applications not just for school but for life."

The club is designed for any student who is interested in gaining computer and programming skills.

"Coding and automating everyday processes is becoming a more vital part of various career paths," said Ms. Choo. "Having strong computer skills, including programming skills, can come in handy throughout the future."

Said Gulino, "Coding and computer science are the present and future of technology, so I love being a part of all the excitement and learning"

The club meets every other Monday after school in Room 331 and new members are welcome to attend now as well as next school year.

(Disney Photos Continued)



Teachers^{of} Stanner High

Story and photos by Samantha Racan '16 and Rose Maisano '16

"I was getting ready to start my first year at Molloy, and ended up coming down with strep throat! I missed the first week of school and couldn't believe I had to call in the first day at a new job saying I wouldn't be in because I was ill."

-Mrs. Palmina Dionisi ▼



"When I first started here I was in Mr. Sheehan's room. I had to do a lot of demonstrations in class, sometimes involving bowling balls and other large objects. I always found it funny that I was doing these demonstrations in an English classroom with different posters from books students would read through out the year."

-Mr. Michael Nadeau ◀

"During my first day, I remember being overwhelmed at how many students were in one classroom. I couldn't figure out how all of them were going to fit into the room! At that time there were about 40 students per class, and I wasn't used to such a large class setting."

-Ms. Jeanne Longerano



"In my first few years at Molloy, we used to go on field trips in order to expose students to new experiences. On one trip, myself and a few other history teachers took a group of students to Cooperstown, NY. We ended up starting a wiffle ball game outside the hotel, and unknowingly left a group of freshmen alone inside the hotel. That group of boys started a water balloon fight and drenched the hallways and another guest at the hotel! We were almost asked to leave the hotel, but the man who the boys had hit wasn't angry, and only asked that we pay for his dry cleaning."

-Mr. Michael Harrison ▲

What is your favorite memory from your first year at Molloy?



"One thing I remember from my first day here was the fact that I was late. I thought it was pretty ironic that I was a graduate from Molloy and was late the first day. Good thing I couldn't get detention anymore!"

-Mr. Ted McGuinness ▶



"When I first started here, I was one of the few women in the school. All I kept thinking was how many boys there were! I had to change lesson plans to tie into analogies boys in high school would relate to like sports and certain TV shows from the time."

-Ms. Mary Pat Gannon ▶



Senior Prom Stresses Students and Faculty Alike

By: Alexandra Fitzpatrick '16

Planning for the 2016 Senior Prom at Leonard's of Great Neck on May 26th hasn't been entirely smooth sailing for the Prom Committee due to many seniors' inability to meet the ticket deposit deadline.

"It's been very stressful," said Ms. Liz Murdocca, Director of Student Activities.

Tickets, which are the same \$140 per person price as last year, were first available for purchase on February 22nd and seniors had until March 24th to hand in their deposit of \$70 per person.

"Students tend to wait until the last minute to buy," Ms. Murdocca said. "They're forgetful or still looking for dates, and so they put it off. This causes problems because we need a head count for the number of tables we'll need, the size of the room we'll rent, and other important parts of prom."

The Class of 2016 is continuing a trend started last year when it comes to meeting the deadline. "The seniors this year and last year were both very slow," Ms. Murdocca said.

Prom planning is not without its stresses for seniors, either.

Social media can contribute to "prama", or prom drama, that occasionally permeates students' planning, especially for girls.

"Social media paints an unreal picture of prom," said senior Lucia Leandri. "It definitely makes prom planning stressful. There's a lot of competition for girls when it comes to prom."

But social media's effects on prom planning are

not all negative.

"I think the prom dress Facebook group is a good thing, because it relieves a lot of dress worries," said Leandri. "It's important that everyone feels unique and beautiful at the prom, so it's nice that we can make sure no one has the same dress."

Another prom tradition born from social media is using creative ways to ask someone to prom, known as a "promposal."

Promposals vary from clever signs to elaborate displays involving spelling out prom on teammates' shirts or decorating a locker with balloons and flowers.

"I proposed to my date," said senior Patrick Wlodkowski. "It's pretty common, and it's a nice thing to do." Boys tend not to stress about planning a promposal. "There really isn't pressure for a perfect promposal," said Wlodkowski. "It doesn't affect the answer."

Neither do the boys feel any stress about what they will wear because, unlike with girls, there is no shame in wearing an identical looking rented tux as another boy at the prom.

Last year, there were so many elaborate promposals occurring during the school day that the administration decided to ban them.

"They're disruptive to the education process," said Mr. Ken Auer, Assistant Principal for Students. "I can't see the ban being lifted anytime soon."

Another issue that may affect some seniors is the fact that, officially at least, Molloy students may not bring a date of the same sex to the prom,



The Class of 2016 at their Junior Prom last May. Photo by Laura Sawyer '07.

though they can get around that rule by attending the prom in a large mixed group.

"We're a Catholic school," Mr. Auer said. "As long as the Church says no, the rule stands."

Going to the prom is only part of weekend-long festivities for some seniors. "I'm excited for the 'After-prom,'" said Wlodkowski.

But before that, there will be new things for students to enjoy at the Senior Prom itself.

"This year we are adding video and picture screens, a photo booth with 4x6-inch souvenir photos, and a smoke machine," Ms. Murdocca said.

Overall, despite the stress and expense, which for some students runs up to over \$900, seniors are excited about the prom.

Principal Penikas Reviews His First Year at Molloy

by Charlie Maisano '16 and Conor McGlynn '16

Coming from the smaller environment of Saint John the Baptist High School in Suffolk County where he was an assistant principal, new Principal Mr. Darius Penikas was impressed with the student-teacher relationships he found at Archbishop Molloy despite its being a much larger school.



Mr. Penikas still smiling after his first year.
Picture by Maria Gulino '16

"The students, faculty, and staff all have a wonderful aura and the level of relationship between the two shows how much the teachers care for the students," said Mr. Penikas.

Mr. Penikas is the first lay person to be Principal

of Molloy, replacing Principal Bro. Thomas Schady who was elected after six years to become the Director of Marist Education.

Mr. Penikas, a graduate of Chaminade High School, said he immediately felt a connection with the school upon arriving.

"Growing up in the suburbs compared to the city is a different experience," he said. "They both have their own pros and cons, but I feel at home working here."

He was impressed with the high level of academic accomplishment from Molloy students and said it reflects on their teachers and how much they truly love their jobs.

During his first year here, Mr. Penikas saw that some changes were necessary. He moved to create a new class schedule for next year, start AP Computer Science and Science Research classes for next fall, and introduce the use of the computer program TurnItIn so teachers can insure students don't plagiarize on their term papers.

While working toward making these changes, Mr. Penikas has also been trying to find the time to get to know Molloy's students.

"It's still a process," he said. "It's hard to come to a school of this size and know every person right away. I've gotten to know the seniors, and I go to a lot of events, such as plays and sports, to get to know people."

Mr. Penikas said in the future he would be interested in teaching one class a day as chemistry teacher Bro. Roy George did when he was Molloy's principal.

Although Mr. Penikas has seen a lot of positives at Molloy, he has seen one obvious weakness, a lack of space.

"It's hard here as we are always scrambling for

classroom space," he said. "We also can't have a mass where every student could attend so that's another problem."

As his first year as principal comes to close, many students and teachers have nothing but praise for Mr. Penikas.

"Mr. Penikas has done a fantastic job," said Assistant Principal Mr. Dennis Vellucci. "He is very innovative in trying to do new things in a new way."

Social studies teacher Mr. William Flemen said, "Mr. Penikas has made great progress in trying to connect with the teachers and students here at Molloy. He is different because many people can hold the title of Principal, but not many can act like a Principal. He's striving to become a student-teacher Principal where both students and teachers can approach him for help and guidance."

Students say that Mr. Penikas is very caring and listens to what they have to say. "Mr. Penikas took time out of his day to listen to my story at lunch one day, which shows that he's making an effort to get to know students here at Molloy," said senior Christina Lattanzio.

Other students like how Mr. Penikas makes an effort to be a part of everyday life at Molloy.

"I like how Mr. Penikas takes part in the morning announcements. It's good to see that he wants to get involved in a student's everyday life," said sophomore Dakota Racan.

Now that Mr. Penikas' first year is coming to a close, he has said he is satisfied with the job he's done as the new leader at Molloy.

"I'm truly proud to work at such a wonderful school and see all the wonderful things the school does even though I may not be apart of all of it yet," he said.

Police in Molloy's Halls to Safeguard Students

By: John Alfonso '16

After two female students were harassed by a man on separate occasions outside of school a few weeks ago, the Molloy administration requested that police officers be stationed inside the building for the safety of the students for 10 days. The man was never seen again.

Senior Niamh Girdusky was walking back to school from the deli on Main Street. at around 1:30 p.m. on February 25th when she was approached near the building's Manton Street door by a man whose aggressive body language made her feel uncomfortable.

She was buzzed into the building by someone in the General Office who was watching on a security camera.

"I was just trying to get inside to eat my bagel and was upset when the man bothered me," Girdusky said. "I was shaken up after the event happened."

Girdusky's experience was the second time the same man approached a female in a way that made her feel uncomfortable. That student, who wished to remain anonymous, was physically confronted outside of the Dunkin' Donuts on Queens Blvd.

Mr. Ken Auer, the Assistant Principal for Students, met with both girls soon after each of these separate incidents.

"The secretary told us first what had happened

but the senior student came down to my office later and told me what had happened," said Mr. Auer. "The other girl gave us a description of the man and once we had a photo of him from the cameras, we were able to identify him."

Once the Administration determined it was the same man, it contacted the local police precinct.

"Because there was physical contact, we notified the police. They decided to stay inside the building to make sure everything was safe," Mr. Auer said.

Two police officers were posted at Molloy's front door for about two weeks and while many students felt safer because of the presence of the officers, others were curious as to why the police were there.

The administration had informed the faculty about the reason for the police presence in an email which included a photo of the man but it did not inform students, which led some to suspect a possible threat was being kept under wraps.

Mr. Auer said, "It was the administration's decision to not notify the students about the incident because they didn't want to cause a panic."

Senior Jessica Giustiniani said, "I think it would



have been beneficial if the administration had informed us as to what happened and why the police were around."

Rumors began circulating among students due to this lack of information that Girdusky had been pulled into a vehicle by the man or she had bitten him to get away.

Senior Gaetano Modcai said, "Rumors tend to be worse than the truth and if the school had told us, those rumors would not have gotten so out of hand."

The man who harassed these students has not been arrested, but the police do know where he lives and he has not returned to the area around the school, Mr. Auer said.

Mr. Dolan Talks Fashion, Life in Palm Beach

by Maria Gulino '16

There's more to the teachers' assistants than the panic you feel as you check to make sure your lanyard is around your neck, or that your skirt lays low. Mr. Dolan, otherwise known as "JP", has caused a silent revolution in the recent months without needing to raise his voice.

"Have you seen the guy with the cool pants?" or "Check out the TA's pants!" have frequently been heard during lunch. Mr. Dolan accepted an interview and gracefully shared his fashion taste and story with us.

Mr. Dolan has a bright future in store as he plans on becoming a police officer after his time here at Molloy. He took the test two years ago and has endured most of his three-year wait as he prepares for the physical exams to come.

As a Stanner alumnus of the Class of 2010, he knows the strict student dress code at Molloy. The faculty also has a dress code. "I was told a shirt, tie, and pants, but no specifics, so I added my own flare to it." Mr. Dolan went to college in Florida and while working at The Breakers Hotel in Palm Beach, caught onto the style of the hotel goers.

The administration has yet to give him a detention for his choice in clothes. While others may describe his style as "eccentric" or interesting, he just sees it as Palm Beach style, and he certainly works the look.



Mr. Dolan, Class of 2010, proudly wears his patterned pants and matching tie. The shirt is a bit more conservative.

Photo by Maria Gulino '16.

Just as we all have a favorite pant and shirt combo, so does Mr. Dolan. His favorite is his favorite green pants with shamrocks alongside the next best blue-white-pink vineyard vines pants.

In the shirt department, his white and blue-checked shirt one wins, especially when matched with a Lilly Pulitzer underwater tie or his pants matching shamrock tie.

But where does he find them? "Most of my clothes are J Crew, Brooks Brothers, and Vineyard Vines. Everything else is from EBay because sometimes the other brands are too expensive."

"Mr. Sottosanti has great taste because it's similar and he's not afraid to rock his unique style, just like me. Also, some of my styles were inspired by Mr. Cameron when I attended Molloy." However, Mr. Dolan's clothes don't reflect his personality. "I'm not as outgoing or loud as my clothes are."

Take some time out of your study-filled day to interact with the TA's and you'll discover they're interesting, kind people with more substance than just giving people detention in the halls.

A final message from the future police officer TA in regards to the people who don't see eye to eye with his fashion: "I don't care what you think."

Thank you to Mr. Dolan for taking the time to address his dress for *The Stanner!*

Common Core Regents Brings Change for Stanners

By Mirtelle Mendoza '16 and Isabelle Yazon '16

Juniors will take new English and Math Regents exams in June based on the State's new Common Core curriculum, but Molloy faculty members are concerned that Common Core testing was implemented too quickly and that students may be frustrated with the changes and time constraints of the new format.

Four New York State Regents exams, Integrated Algebra, Geometry, Algebra 2 Trigonometry, and Comprehensive English, have been switched to Common Core formats and renamed CC Algebra 1, CC Geometry, CC Algebra 2, and CC English Language Arts.

The State Board of Regents made the change because College Board exams, such as AP, SAT, and PSAT, are moving toward a Common Core based curriculum as are most U.S. schools, said Assistant Principal Ms. Mary Ann Safrey.

The new testing based on Common Core standards aims to be more conceptual in nature to promote thinking skills. Students must rely less on their scope of knowledge and more on their depth of understanding of the subject, more on applying what they know rather than on memorizing facts, said Ms. Safrey.

Students are not the only ones affected by the new exams as teachers have had to prepare students for new Regents exams, according to Mr. Jim Sheehan.

"The English Department and other teachers

have gone to education workshops to learn the changes and to adapt to the curriculum," he said.

Mr. Sheehan said the new English Regents exams are problematic.

"Some questions presented to students are not developmentally suitable for their age," he said. "Some of the questions on the test are ludicrous and frustrate and discourage students from liking reading."

Mr. Sheehan hopes that this emphasis on the Common Core will "fade away soon."

Despite his belief that this year's juniors are "guinea pigs for Common Core," Mr. Sheehan is confident that Stanners will continue to do as well as they have done on past English Regents exams.

Mr. Sheehan believes that teaching high school English means going beyond the focus of Common Core to include the study of literature but the format of CC English Language Arts Regents is less about literature and more about being able to comprehend all types of documents and non-fiction articles related to science and social studies.

Last month, the English department gave all juniors readings samples from recent Common Core exams to prepare for the June exam and their scores "ranged from just passing to passing by a lot," said Mr. Sheehan.

Junior Andrew Wenzler said English teacher Ms. Jennifer Morell and math teacher Ms. Lauren Pizzo have talked about the new Regents in class. "I'm

not concerned about passing, just about doing well," he said.

Juniors, who are preparing for the exams by participating in daily review classes and taking practice exams, have mixed feelings about the tests.

Wenzler said, "I don't think they serve any purpose at all."

Karen Baldonado said the tests are "not challenging enough. What is taught in class is much more challenging."

Wenzler and Baldonado both said that if Stanners did not have to spend class time preparing for Regents exams, they could spend time learning things outside the Common Core curriculum.

Ms. Safrey said that Gov. Andrew Cuomo, a Molloy graduate, after receiving complaints from teachers and parents that New York State implemented the new tests too quickly, said he intends to review Common Core testing this year.

For now, Molloy will continue to require its students take Regents exams in order to get Regents diplomas and because Molloy receives state money to administer the exams that is important to balancing the school's budget.

But it is possible, Ms. Safrey said, that Molloy one day may stop requiring Regents exams for educational reasons if the school can find the resources to replace the funds it now gets from the state.

Practice Pays Off

By: Peter Paolo '19

Spring is in the air, and Molloy Baseball is back for another season. As *The Stanner* went to press, JV is 12-6, and Varsity is 13-4 overall. A stellar start to the season, no doubt, but these wins don't come without some sacrifice. Usually, practice is held six days a week, Mondays through Saturdays. On average, practices last from 2:30 to 6:30 in the afternoon. If you thought that schedule was exhausting, Varsity holds workouts for players in the fall and over the winter. In addition, pitchers on both levels have reported since January at 6:30 in the morning twice a week to work out.

Baseball is a demanding sport, but it is important that players also stay loose and are able to take a breather every once in awhile. Mr. Brad Lyons, Varsity Head Coach and a math teacher at Molloy says, "it's important to have a loose atmosphere but also know when it's time to get serious."

Baseball is very much a sport in which players are dependent on one another. You must have a catcher behind home plate, or else baserunners would never stop running around the bases. If there were no outfielders, every hit would turn into a home run. So, it is important that players build trust among themselves, as well as learn how to play effectively as a

team.

One player described to me how the team is learning how to rally around one another for support, especially when they may not be playing their best baseball. Mr. Lyons also noted the importance of looking forward to the end of the season. He said, "we hope to be getting better every game" and "be playing the best baseball at the end of the season."

However, it does take a certain type of person to hang in there through thick and thin. According to Mr. Lyons "hard work and perseverance" and "being able to fight through any situation that is given to you" are qualities that are valued among baseball players. As a matter of fact, some players have even earned a spot on the Honor Roll, proving they are true student-athletes. Perhaps that is what keeps players going, mentally and physically, through those long nights, sore muscles, and mornings when you wake up and do it all over again.

However, there is no doubt through lengthy practices and games, time spent on the bench and off, and through the support of their teammates and coaches, Molloy is already playing their best baseball.

As *The Stanner* goes to press, the team is 18-6 overall and 11-5 in league play.



The 2015-16 Varsity Baseball Team. Photos by Yearbook staff.



Bobby Schmuck '16



Billy Hatzinikolaou '16

Seniors Lose to Faculty in Close Game

by Peter Maisano '16



Disappointing many students, this year the faculty was victorious over the seniors in the Senior-Faculty Basketball Game. The faculty won 87-84 on March 8th in the Jack Curran Gym.

"I think the faculty beat the seniors because we all work well together and kept everyone's playing time to short shifts," said Ms. Scalice about why the faculty won. "We were all well rested and ready to play when it was our time."

Last year, the Class of 2015 defeated the faculty triumphantly 84-78, making this year's defeat even more bittersweet for the Class of 2016. "It was still fun and entertaining to watch the game, especially since some of my friends were playing," senior Casey Kearney said. "It was kind of a disappointing loss as a fellow senior, I just hope that next year's seniors can win." Despite this loss, senior Shania Chua, a spectator, felt that the faculty worked well enough to defeat the seniors.

The game is one of the few times throughout the year seniors have a chance to enjoy friendly competition with the faculty. Guidance counselor Mr. Esgro said he, "was very excited to play in the game, even nervous," but nevertheless enjoyed playing. Ms. Scalice agreed. "What I enjoy most



Photos by Maria Gulino '16.

about playing against the seniors is the friendly competition. It brings out a different and fun side of everyone that isn't always seen in the classroom."

When asked about the lack of female representation on both teams, Ms. Scalice felt that, "more females should be playing. I think it's important to show female students they can compete with the boys in anything as long as they give it their best."

One favorite moment of the night, for many, was chanting "We don't know you" to night TA Morgan Kelly '07. Ironically, Kelly coached the first senior team in the inaugural Senior-Faculty Game.

Although many aspects of the game contributed to the seniors' tough loss, Vincent Antignani doesn't believe team chemistry or the large amount of seniors on the team was an issue. "Everyone got into the game twice and received enough playing time," Antignani added. "No one played selfishly and we



Mr. Sheldon as referee.

did a good job of sharing the ball." He did add, however, that the faculty was able to rebound and score easy shots. Senior Lara McFadden also agreed, saying that, "Giving up easy shots to the teachers was a major problem."

One issue at the game this year, according to event organizer Chris Dougherty, was that Molloy was not able to raise any money for fundraising at the game, unlike previous years. "Although the game was fun, this year we were only able to break even because some people did not pay for the game," which is the reason Molloy couldn't raise any money. In future years Mr. Dougherty recommends all spectators, including performers and players, buy tickets so the most money can be raised.