

## Pomp and Circumstance

by Peter Maisano '16 & Stacy Kanellopoulos

This year Valedictorian Shibangi Saha and Salutatorian Shania Chua represented the Class of 2016 on June 4th at Colden Auditorium at Queens College during graduation exercises.

When asked about their inspirations and motivations throughout high school, the duo both attributed their successes to family.

Saha, an only child, felt that, "...my parents dreamt and expected so much of me, which helped me perform so well." She only hopes that she "has made them proud." Chua felt the same, but also credited her brothers. "They were huge inspirations because they were also at the top of their classes, so I really wanted to be as successful as they were." She also attributes much of her success to her math teachers. "I've always gotten along well with my teachers and have excelled in math, which has helped me form strong bonds with them," Chua felt.

Assistant Principal Ms. MaryAnn Safrey informed both Shibangi and Shania in May. Both were surprised when they realized the position they held in the rankings of the Class of 2016. Although Chua knew she ranked among the top students, "The grades between each spot were very close, which made me unsure if I would be Salutatorian." Saha felt the same because, "...rankings were never really known." As another pair of girls to be Valedictorian and Salutatorian, both Chua and Saha were humbled to receive such an incredible honor.

Classmates of Saha and Chua were equally as excited as Shibangi and Shania were.

Perry Chresomales, a close friend of Shania Chua, said, "Shania works really hard, but is extremely caring and always watches out for her friends to make sure they are doing well." He continued to say how proud he was of her and that Shania has been so successful because she is comfortable with who she is.

Lakumi Sivanandan felt that, "Shibangi is extremely compassionate, thoughtful, and intelligent. She really does deserve to be Valedictorian."

Both Saha and Chua are considering studying pre-health/medicine.

Shania, who was accepted to Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Northeastern and Boston College, will attend Villanova where she hopes to study biology and eventually become a Physician's Assistant. Chua chose Villanova because when she got on campus, "It was very welcoming and felt like Molloy, but it also didn't hurt that they had just won the NCAA Championship. Go Wildcats!"

Shibangi will attend Northeastern with hopes to one day attend medical school and study neuroscience.

Similarly to other years, Adelphi University and St John's University will have high numbers from the Class of 2016 in attendance. Come this fall, there are Stanners who will be attending schools such as The University of Notre Dame, Cornell University, and Yale



Shibangi Saha and Shania Chua. Photo by Maria Gulino '16 and Peter Maisano '16.

University. The Class of 2016 has worked exceedingly hard; but much credit is due to the College Guidance team, Mr. Esgro and Mr. McGuinness. They demonstrated unconditional patience towards each senior and dedicated so much time towards each request ever made. Yet, the college application process also gave the seniors an element of independence, which is a very important tool and will be treasured.

Although the college application process was very frustrating and painstaking at times, in the end, all efforts were worth it.

## Markunas and Rodrigues Named MVPs

by Rose Maisano '16, Maria Gulino '16, Samantha Racan '16, & Stacy Kanellopoulos '16

Varsity soccer player Jesse Rodrigues and Varsity Golf "A" and Varsity swimmer Rebecca Markunas both were named most outstanding senior athlete and received the Jack Curran Award at the annual Athletic Awards Night on Wednesday, May 25<sup>th</sup>.

A three year Varsity player and team captain as a senior, Rodrigues was an All-CHSAA as a junior and senior. As a senior, Rodrigues was First Team All Tablet, Times Ledger, and All-MSG Varsity First team. He was also MSG Varsity Player of the Year for this season. In addition, Rodrigues was the leading goal scorer for the 2015-16 City Championship Soccer team including scoring the winning goal with 12 seconds left in overtime to secure the championship. Rodrigues will be playing soccer for Siena College in the fall.

Markunas has competed on the golf team for four years and was the captain of the team her senior year. She holds two school records. Markunas was the only girl to compete for the past four years against only boys. She finished 5th in NYS and will compete in the PGA Nationals in July. She is ranked #1 in the Met PGA Junior Player of the Year standings. In addition, Markunas was the Captain of the Girls Varsity Swim team where she holds another two school records.

• **Golf Varsity "B":** Coaches Award: Nick DiScala; MVP: Nicoletta Ziozis

• **Girl's Step:** The Coach's Award: Lynn-Saskya Toussaint; The MVP: Debbie Lagula

• **Boy's Step:** The Coach's Award: Jaem Ekram The MVP: RJ Ayroso

• **Boy's Varsity "B" Basketball:** The Coach's



Rebecca Markunas, Principal Penikas, and Jesse Rodrigues. Photo by Ms. Sawyer.

Award: John Ambert; MVP: Jonathan Andre

• **Girls Varsity Cross Country:** The Coach's Award: Carolyn Crocker; The MVP: Mikayla Roberts

• **Boy's Varsity Cross Country:** The Coach's Award: Michael Reddy; The MVP: Alex Goldberg

• **Girls Varsity Basketball:** The Coach's Award; Phoebe Valenton; The MVP: Kathryn Gibson

• **Boys Varsity Basketball:** The Coach's Award: Dom Priolo, The MVP: Issac Grant

• **Girls Varsity Soccer:** The Coach's Award: Mary Brandt; The Kaitlyn Grogan MVP Award for Girls Varsity Soccer is awarded to: Sydney Small

• **Girls Varsity Tennis:** The Coach's Award:

Alessandra Ricciardi; The MVP: Kyra Bergmann

• **Boys Tennis:** The Coach's Award: Franco Manriquez; The MVP: Daniel Vascones

• **Girls Varsity Volleyball:** The Coach's Award: Alana Ball; The MVP: Jacqueline Banker

• **Boys Varsity Swimming:** The Coach's Award: Ruben Cerridroz; The MVP: Harry Ortof

• **Girl's Varsity Swim:** The Coach's Award: Nicole Falcao; The MVP: Annabelle Anich

• **Girls Varsity Track & Field:** The Coach's Award: Cristina Giannelli; The MVP: Sarah Kowpak

• **Girls Varsity Lacrosse:** Coach Award: Aoife McGrath; MVP: Amanda Tracey

• **Boys Varsity Soccer:** The Coach's Award: Stephen Deely; The MVP: Jesse Rodrigues

• **Varsity Handball:** The Coach's Award: Connor Rossbach; The MVP: Casey Kearney

• **Varsity Bowling:** The Coach's Award: Hugo Mandraccia; The MVP: Robert Schmuck

• **Golf Varsity "A":** The Coach's Award: Christian Devlin; The MVP: Rebecca Markunas

• **Varsity Baseball:** The Coach's Award: Iarla Freehill; The MVP: John Herring

• **Boy's Varsity Track & Field:** The Coach's Award: Justin Obayi; The MVP: Andrew Garabito

• **Varsity Softball:** They reached the semi-finals of the Diocesan Championship. The Coach's Award: Camille Sears; The MVP: Victoria Brown

# Teachers Say Farewell to Class of 2016

**“Congratulations Class of 2016! Use your many skills and talents to help make the world a better place, one day at a time. Please keep in touch with your Alma Mater.” -Mr. Karsten**

“Dear Class of 2016- Congratulations!!! You have worked hard and learned a great deal over your four years at Stanner High. I wish you nothing but the best in all your future endeavors. Remember to dream big and pursue those dreams with confidence. It was a pleasure working with and knowing you this year. Finally, know that you are always welcome back here at Molloy. All out best!” -Mr. Penikas

**“Thank you for helping to define Molloy over your time with us. No class will leave its mark on our communal identity in quite the same way as the Class of 2016. Carry on the values and standards you’ve lived and learned here. The world needs intelligent, compassionate, creative and courageous trailblazers. Be confident that you are prepared to be such leaders. Put your best selves forward as you move beyond our doors. God bless all your endeavors.” -Ms. Safrey**

“Do not be afraid. Do not be satisfied with mediocrity. Put out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch. – John Paul II” Good luck Class of 2016, you will be missed! - Mr. Cameron”

**“To the Stanner Players: Thank you for trusting me and allowing me to guide you in a new direction these past few years. You are all amazingly talented and spectacular and I will miss each and every one of you. Break legs in the future, and please come back to visit.” -Ms. Winters**

“Congratulations and good luck in all you do! It has been a pleasure to start Molloy with you, and watch as you all became thoughtful, intelligent young adults! The halls will be very empty next year! Be sure to visit and make good decisions! -Love, Ms. Edelman”

**“Softball Ladies- I cannot believe how quickly the years have gone by! Thank you for all the great moments and memories. I wish you nothing but the best now and always. Have the time of your life.” -Coach Lou**

“Next year there will be no more dress codes, late passes or detentions, but also no more Esopus, Peer Group, or extra help. Molloy works hard to build up your self-esteem then sends you out into an uncaring world whose demands might tear it back down very quickly. Grit, determination, and work ethic will take you a lot further than feeling good about yourself ever will. Best of luck!” - Mr. McKenna

**“I find myself sad this time of the year knowing that you will all be moving on and we will not see you every day. Your time at Molloy has been good and we wish you continued good luck and don’t forget to visit.” - Mr. Verdi**

“Dear Molloy Class of 2016 - May the road rise

up to meet you. May the wind be always at your back. May the sun shine warm upon your face; the rains fall soft upon your fields and until we meet again, may God hold you in the palm of His hand. - An old Irish blessing for each and every one of you! Congratulations and best of luck for your next adventure. Go Stanners!” - Dr. Leslie Poole Petit

**“Dear Graduating Seniors, It has been a pleasure traveling with you through your 4 years at Molloy. You have provided many opportunities for fun this year in our Faculty - Senior sporting events. Keep the faith, and remember that God has big plans for you.” - Sincerely, Mr. Mooney**

“To My Lacrosse girls, Amanda, Aoife, Chloe, Emily, Isabelle & Laurie, Thank you for making these last four years so memorable and special. It has been an honor to start my time here at Molloy with the six of you. We are going to miss you next year on the field, but I look forward to seeing what the future has in store for all of you. It’s a beautiful day for lacrosse!” -Ms. Scalice

**“Thank you for making my first year at Molloy one worth remembering! Good luck, and always remember to never forget where you came from.” -Mr. Esgro**

“E’ stato un vero piacere insegnarvi la lingua di Dante Alighieri. Vi auguro tanta buona fortuna, prosperita’ e benessere. Con affetto Sempre, Signora Dionisi”

**“Congratulations to all the Stanner graduates of 2016. I’ve enjoyed the time we spent together, you’ve made the year fly by. Just remember a few things as you go off to college- work your hardest, think before you do, be kind and compassionate, be excited to discover new things. Thank you for all your prayers and kind words, they meant a lot. Best of luck as you take on the world! You’re the best!” - Mrs. Solari**

“The Actualization of a Dream Begins with the Hope That it is Possible!” I have big hopes for all of you. The actualization of your dreams is just beginning. I know it is possible for you to achieve so much! You touched my heart in so many ways. I can’t imagine any other school where the Librarian can dance with students at their Senior Encounter wearing a feathered mask and “bright red s....x shoes” and have those of you who experienced it understand the message I was portraying. The timeless memories created through the endless chess games in the library, the actual taking out of books to “read”, fighting for the comfort chairs, attending exciting basketball games, taking over my desk as though it were yours, printing out papers for you, watching some of you study for exams or type up research papers, experiencing freshmen camp with you, chaperoning the Daisy Ducks at Disney, making perler ornaments for the incoming freshmen, leading

the Cappuccino & Chocolates Europe Trip, and most of all memories made through sharing your daily life stories with me will stay with me for years to come. You are an endearing class filled with love for life! Thank you for being the outstanding Stanners that you are! You will be missed greatly in the library! “Thank God We’re Alive!” -Ms. DeNoto”

**“Congratulations to the class of 2016!!!! You have been a wonderful class since freshmen year. The spirit of the school. Everyone will miss you. To my softball girls- I wish you nothing but the best Always. Congratulations on all your accomplishments. -Rosie”**

“Class of 2016, Thank you for four awesome years!! You are determined, enthusiastic, and full of spirit. I know you will all move on to great things in life. Remember – “To be nobody but yourself in a world which is doing its best, night and day, to make you everybody else means to fight the hardest battle which any human being can fight; and never stop fighting.” -e.e. cummings, 1955.” - Ms. Murdocca

**“I wish for each of you much success in your future endeavors. Remember who you are and where you come from, but most of all always be yourself, follow your dreams and you will succeed. Love ya, - Mrs. K Forgiore RN (Mama Forge)”**

“To the Class of ‘16: I hope that you will cherish - like I do - the huge variety of memories of Peer Groups, SMILE Groups & all their topics & votes & trips to Pies ‘n Thighs, Bare Burger, Blue Stove & more; I A.M. Green Beach Clean-Ups, Museum & Shake Shack Trips, & 2 first ever: this year’s Bloomberg LP trip & last year’s upstate Strawberry picking trip; Anime Boston & Zenkaikon w/ the Anime Club; so many movies & Palisades trips w/ Sci Fi; The SMCS trips to Nicaragua, Dominican Republic, & Jamaica; the SR-Faculty sports series; & the Brother Leo walk to the WTC on the Walk-a-thon; and so many moments in between. I want to wish you the best of luck in college & don’t forget to have a charged cell phone & take your vitamins. But most of all, practice some mindfulness & get at least one good belly laugh in a day. Can’t wait to see you all on your next visit & you’ll always be welcome home. -Love, Doc”

**“Congratulations to the Class of 2016. These past four years have been a pleasure; watching you discover yourselves through the context of our Marist family is always amazing. Stanners, remember the important lessons that you learned and the fond memories that you made. As the ‘for school’ part ends, and the ‘for life’ part begins, also know that you are always welcome home. Best of luck! - KLIMAS”**

## From The Stanner Staff:

We would like to thank our teachers here at Molloy who pushed us to grow intellectually and challenged us to develop into well-rounded students.

We would like to thank all the counselors who provided us with unconditional support, especially throughout the application process. We are very grateful for all the opportunities we’ve been given here at Molloy.

We would like to thank Mr. Sommo, Ms. Sawyer, and Ms. Cardone for their dedication and the time they put into making The Stanner an award-winning paper. The Stanner will be left in good hands.



The Class of 2016



# Senior Prom

May 26<sup>th</sup>, 2016



