

# The Blue and Gold



Malden High School  
Volume 111 Graduation Edition

maldenblueandgold.com

77 Salem Street  
June 2026

*Producing student journalism since 1915*

## A TRIBUTE TO THE PRINCIPAL



Kyle Dang  
Head Copy Editor

After 17 years, the 2026 school year will officially mark the end of Principal Chris Mastrangelo's time at Malden High School.

To rewind back in time, Mastrangelo has not always been Malden High's principal. His journey started back in 2009 as the Boyle House Principal, replacing Fred Feldman.

Since 2009, Mastrangelo reflected on one of his earliest and memorable moments: "I was watching all the kids come out of the school and just looking at kids from Brazil and China and Vietnam and Haiti—all of the different faces and cultures and backgrounds, but everybody at that point were just high school kids, that from all over the world came here, and I just remember having this moment. It was the spring of my first year. 'Like, wow, this place is really special.'"

As his time progressed, Mastrangelo would become the intern principal near the end of 2016. Richard Tivnan, a history teacher of 21 years, explained how he has "worked side by side with him," recalling memories, both the "good times and bad," and explaining how he took over Mastrangelo's role as Boyle house principal for a year before returning as a history teacher.

Boyle House counselor, Erin Craven, who has worked with Mastrangelo for 17 years, described him as "a leader of faculty, a leader of students, and a leader of just the whole building."

In 2018, Mastrangelo was selected as the school's permanent principal and has been Malden High's principal for eight years.

Tivnan commemorated Mastrangelo's leadership and character, highlighting "the intangible stuff that he does," such as "his love for the kids, his love for the school, what he'll do that most people don't even see."

"It's not something you look at on a data sheet or a piece of some

*Continued on page 7*



On May 29th, the Class of 2026 walked the annual Red Carpet where family and friends gathered and cheered them on before celebrating their prom at the New England Aquarium. More photos on page 9.



Valedictorian: Kelly Ye,  
page 5



Salutatorian: Thomas  
Conti, page 5



Class Orator: Lincoln  
Boswell, page 6



President: Linh Do,  
page 6

## Play Pro Performs Killer Mystery



The guests surround Miss Scarlett, played by Alexia Maciel Lima, as she attempts to break open the briefcase. FATIMA HUSAIN

Fatima Husain  
Head Copy Editor

Anonymous invitations. 6 guests. 6 murders. 6 motives. Can you find out who did it?

On May 1st and 2nd, Malden High's Play Production, led by Ariana Messana, performed Clue, a screenplay by Jonathan Lynn. The story is set in 1954, against the backdrop of the McCarthy era "Red Scare." Six strangers—all using pseudonyms to protect their

identities—are invited to a secluded mansion known as Boddy Manor. They are greeted by an eccentric butler, Wadsworth, played by senior Erin Grondin, and the French maid, Yvette, played by junior Kim Lones.

The stage transformation for this production was impeccable, with seven painted doors representing

*Continued on page 7*

## Alumni Hall of Fame Induction



Kevin Jarvis making his induction speech on his Alumni Induction Night. CHOUAIB SAIDI

Chouaib Saidi  
Editor-in-Chief

Alexia Maciel Lima  
Managing Editor

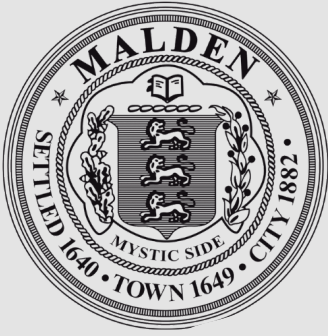
The Malden High School Alumni Association hosts a Hall of Fame Induction every other year to honor individuals who have graduated from Malden High School, as well as their legacy and their successes at Malden High.

Prior to the Hall of Fame Induction on May 1st, the Alumni Association hosted a luncheon in the Gallery, which allowed alumni to be joined by their peers, friends, and family members to collectively reminisce on their time together at MHS and celebrate their successes throughout their careers and lives.

*Continued on page 10*

THE BLUE AND GOLD

77 Salem St.  
Malden, MA 02148



Staff

**MANAGING EDITORS**  
CHELMIE HYPOLITE  
ALEXIA MACIEL LIMA

**HEADS OF SPORTS**  
AUNDREA OROZCO-CIFUENTES  
EVELYN RUAN

**HEADS OF LOCAL**  
YEN NGUYEN  
EMILLY DE FARIAS WEIHRAUCH

**HEAD COPY-EDITORS**  
ANNA BUI  
KYLE DANG  
ISRAA MALHOUNI  
FATIMA HUSAIN

**LEAD REPORTERS**  
ABYAN ALI  
VICTORIA DOMICIANO  
ELIJAH ETIENNE  
ALIANA LLOYD  
BEATRIZ OLIVEIRA  
FARRIS QRANFAL  
HASET TESFAW

**REPORTERS**  
VICTOR CORTEZ FUERTES  
MANNY PEREZ  
AFIF ALAKOUM  
ANTOINE ALCE  
MICHAEL CHACON  
DYLAN CHEN  
RIN CLOUGH  
ARIANA EDWARDS  
ADAM EL FATIHI  
SARAH ETIENNE  
JADAILEE GRATINI  
ANI GUILLAUME  
ISRAA HOWARD  
NYLA LIGON-CHAMBERS  
VANESSA NGUYEN  
KHKOLA NIAZI  
SAFA NIAZI  
AALIYAH NOWLAN  
HARMONIE ORTIZ  
KEVIN PRUM  
BILAL PSARLY  
JOANA TAVARES VASSAO  
KAYLA TURNER  
PRISCARLA VILLEFRANCHE  
WILLIAM YU

**ADVISOR**  
RYAN GALLAGHER

TO SPEAK DESPITE SILENCE

What does it mean to find your voice when you come from a place where voices are silenced? In Eritrea, journalists disappear for asking questions. 6,487 miles away in my high school classroom in Malden, I was encouraged to ask more.

24 years and roughly eight months have passed since September 18th, 2001, the day that the Eritrean press died. Government officials banned seven independent newspapers and 11 senior government officials. No context, no justification, no report. 24 years later, the lack of free press remains the reality in Eritrea. What once served as a gateway for education, news, and public morale during tormenting periods under colonial rule, turned into a political weapon overnight, leaving my younger self to question journalism as a whole despite my love for writing.

I walked into journalism thinking that it was going to be just another class on my transcript to fill my schedule. It wasn't clear to me that the next four years were going to be the most transformative for me through the art of journalism and self-expression.

Growing up connected to a country where journalism is weaponized and strictly prohibited shaped the way that I viewed expression itself. I found that speaking openly did not always feel natural, sometimes felt even risky, and for the longest time, I simply associated it with my personality. I remember holding my notebook tightly with sweaty palms, and a racing mind that wouldn't stop replaying the questions that I had prepared in fear of saying the wrong thing before my first interview. Yet, the moment the conversation began, I realized that my difficulty with expression wasn't an aspect of my personality, but rather the product of conditioned censorship. I realized that journalism wasn't about perfection, but curiosity and genuineness. Instead of speaking to impress someone, I was speaking to fully understand them. What I thought to be strictly professional, instead, strangely felt deeply human, and it occurred to me then why journalism is viewed as a threat.

I remember the spikes of anxiety that ran through my spine upcoming my first six-week trip to Eritrea. I browsed every single page on Google for articles about what to expect, hoping to find something that contradicted the theme of every piece of writing that I stumbled across. Every article, though not much to choose from, highlighted Eritrea's censorship and tough living conditions. Although aware of the truth behind the outside commentary, I also had exposure to the beautiful aspects

of my country, which undeniably outshone the negative components, due to accounts from my family members and my time in Eritrea, the most rewarding six weeks of my life.

The strict prohibition of public media was evident through the recycled phrases and structure of the one national news outlet allowed to air in the country, but the people served as a reminder that journalism is universal and beyond simply just facts and news.

Locals verbally relayed news and opinions in small gatherings, documented every occasion and moment that highlighted human emotion, both good and bad, and what shocked me most was witnessing locals branch out to learn new languages to better immerse themselves with the global community and news despite being isolated.

The words of my cousin, who pursued fluency in Mandarin as an act of rebellion toward the regime as she sought to find an outlet to news on the outside, forever remain engraved in me: "We live in two different worlds, but are united in our curiosity to better understand each other's world." This ignited a light in me that revealed the true power behind reporting and its ability to connect humanity across difference, distance, and unwilling silence.

Though it didn't take me long to activate my voice as a journalist, fully understanding what journalism itself means was something that took me a long time to figure out. Though defined by its objective communication, confusing grammatical rules, and strict deadlines, the art of journalism serves a purpose beyond the reporting of facts to a broad audience. Rather than simply relaying information, the freedom of the press at its core encourages curiosity and awareness that bridges between people and gives visibility to voices that go unheard in our world.

I once viewed news solely as information, yet over time I've grown to learn that journalism also shapes whose stories and experiences are acknowledged and remembered. Our school newspaper may seem small compared to national media, yet even student journalism provides visibility. Every piece covering student achievement, social issues, or public concern promises people that their experiences always matter enough to be heard, no matter how big or small, and that serves as a force strong enough to override any threat posed to the composition of journalism prevalent in our world today.

*Delina Yohannes*

See if you can find the hidden Nedlam in this issue of the paper!

**DP Saigon Subs**  
(781) 990 - 5500  
310 Main Street, Malden, Ma 02148, United States

|        |        |        |         |         |
|--------|--------|--------|---------|---------|
| \$7.00 | \$8.00 | \$5.50 | \$11.00 | \$10.00 |
|--------|--------|--------|---------|---------|

**Marie Hyppolite Family daycare**  
www.mariehyppolitefamilydaycare.com

Marie Hyppolite : 26 Home St Malden Ma, 02148  
Family Daycare : mariehyppolite@yahoo.com  
781-249-7963

|  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| <br><b>Editor-in-Chief of Web and Mobile</b><br>Delina Yohannes  | <br><b>Editor-in-Chief</b><br>Chouaib Saidi                                     | <br><b>Editor-in-Chief of Web and Mobile</b><br>Jacob Fuentes |
| <br><b>Editor-in-Chief of Print and Design</b><br>Jenayah Moreno | <br><b>Editor-in-Chief of Print and Social Media</b><br>Gabriela Parini Cordova |   |

**Editorial Policy**

The Blue and Gold is an open forum for student expression. It is produced by students for the school and the community. The views presented in this paper are not necessarily those of the advisor or the school administration. The views presented in the editorials are those of the editors-in-chief or guests. The goal of The Blue and Gold is to inform and entertain students as well as the community regarding issues that we feel are important.

We strongly encourage readers to respond to material printed in the form of signed letters to the editors. No libelous, malicious, defamatory, obscene, or unsigned material will be printed. The Blue and Gold reserves the right to edit the letters. Names may be withheld upon request. Not all letters will be printed.

Although The Blue and Gold appreciates the support of advertisers, we may refuse any advertisement that violates the above policy or that promotes products questionable to student use.

Any correspondence concerning this publication should be directed to Mr. Ryan Gallagher's room in J387 or to his mailbox in the main office.

The Blue and Gold  
c/o Malden High School  
77 Salem Street  
Malden, MA 02148



## Fighting for Certainty



Chouaib Saidi celebrating his Wrestling Senior Night with his loved ones. Photo submitted by Chouaib Saidi

Chouaib Saidi  
Editor-in-Chief

There comes a time when you realize that life will keep going on. That time for me is my last year at Malden High School.

Reflecting on my four years in journalism specifically, I've made connections, learned new things about who I am, how to interact with people, and how to become the man I always knew I would be.

Through small interactions with important figures at our high school, to community leaders and small businesses around me, I realized that I had a gift; the gift to give hope to others. I have been trying to abide by that code ever since I stepped foot into high school.

I try my best to lift the spirits of others, even those who are mere strangers to me. I think cordiality is important and necessary for every situation; life is hard enough. To have the privilege and chance to make someone's day just by giving a selfless compliment or the ability to ask questions to display a certain attentiveness is what I find myself trying to

do, no matter how bad or complicated a day I'm having. It resets me to a certainty that I am trying every day to be a good person.

I will remember those who have taught me and helped me reach this goal very fondly. From my first day at Malden High School, a confused freshman trying to set the foundation for his future by taking the hardest classes; to slowly transitioning to a burnt out sophomore, taking AP Biology, and three college courses; to junior year—challenging himself to his limit with three AP classes, to the end of the chapter; senior year, finishing strong with a good repertoire. I am ending a chapter that my sibling is starting, so he will make the most out of this experience and will be able to tell a story like this himself.

Part of trying to understand this existential concept about myself is realizing that sometimes others won't be compatible with my morals and ideals. In this chapter of my life, I know relationships will fall out, everyone will take a different direction in life, no matter what program, college, or job they find themselves doing. It is bittersweet how everything unfolds. I would have never guessed that this confused freshman would be attending the dream school he's had since 6th grade.

Boston University will be my home for the next four years, where I hope to continue to practice this aspect of myself that I have lost and found again through my four years at Malden High. I hope to stay grounded to my roots, never forget where I came from, and show Boston what Malden means to me.



Chouaib Saidi with his best friend Annas Sekhri hanging out. Photo submitted by Chouaib Saidi

## Path to Finding Myself



Class of 2026 student council poses together for a picture during Senior Sunrise. Photo submitted by Linh Do

Gabriela Parini Cordova  
Editor-in-Chief of Print  
and Social Media

As I reflect on my senior year, I have come face-to-face with the realization that I will never see the people I am currently walking the halls with ever again. The sentiment every senior is left with as the year comes to an end is hitting me now when I thought it never would. As a freshman, I believed my friends would never change, and I was already a fully-formed person, but that was a severely flawed outlook on my life.

Trends on social media always highlight how much change can occur in a year through the popular saying that the person they were one year ago would never believe the person they are now, whether that be for good or for bad. I am feeling that sentiment heavily, but in a good way.

Malden High has brought both good and bad challenges to my life as I faced the highest highs of winning elections and creating a tight community of friends, to the lowest lows of losing those close to me and feeling left out. This year has been a time for me to truly step into who I am and lead the best life I can. I'm not done growing or changing, not even in the slightest bit, but I don't think I ever will be.

The change in my life that could not have occurred without my community, determination, and the biggest contributor of them all, is my faith in Jesus Christ. Finding Jesus was one thing I had never expected to arise from my high school career, but I am most grateful I did. My life has developed tremendously just by

faith alone, and I was able to get through the toughest seasons of life because of it.

As a freshman, I never would've recognized the girl I am today. During the majority of my high school years, I burnt out by the end of every year, barely passing by. Yet now I'm the most motivated I have ever been, trying my best to get through my last weeks of school in my senior year. The reality of adulthood is still just over the hill, but it's getting closer day by day.

My freedom can no longer be challenged as I move into college and experience the life I've looked forward to since I was a child. As I sit on the impact I've made at Malden High, I am left feeling accomplished while also understanding that I want to continue to impact the communities that came before me in my next chapter of life.

Simmons University is where I will make my new home and impact. I will grow into new communities with new faces all while carrying the spirit of Malden High School in my heart forever. Thank you to the teachers and friends who have inspired me to be selfless, treat others with kindness, and give back to my community. I will always hold the Malden community in my heart as I pursue a career in social work and grow outside of our tight-knit city.



The AO Step Team poses for a photo after this year's Junior Varieties show. Photo taken from @maldenstepteam on Instagram.

## NEW ENGLAND SCHOLASTIC PRESS ASSOCIATION AWARDS

Third Place Winner, Newspaper Editorial:

The Senior Editorial Staff: Chouaib Saidi, Jacob Fuentes, Delina Yohannes, Gabriela Parini Cordova, and Jenayah Moreno for "Hitting the Ground Listening, A Letter for Upcoming Malden High Principal, Michael Sabin."



Second Place Winner, Photo - News/Feature:

Farris Qranfal's "Connor Long leaning in to engage the passengers during an interactive moment on the tour."



Honorable Mention, Photo Gallery:

Kevin Prum's series "Thaw the ICE' Protests Strike the US."



Honorable Mention, Multimedia - Interactive Design:

Abyan Ali's "The Fine Arts of Cartooning."



CONGRATULATIONS!

## How Asking “Why?” Unlocks a World of Possibilities



Jenayah Moreno at the beach. Photo submitted by Jenayah Moreno

Jenayah Moreno  
Editor-in-Chief of Print

Some questions refuse to stay unanswered. Although what I find most admirable about human beings is their ability to combat this through the most powerful action, in my opinion: curiosity.

In my own experience, curiosity runs deeper than the desire to learn; it is ambition, determination, empathy, care, and most of all, love. To be curious is to care, acknowledging the unknowns within the world and ourselves; it is to accept the challenge of not knowing.

In many ways, curiosity is a type of love language. With curiosity, a person can love and deeply appreciate the concealed aspects of the world, as it runs deeper than surface-level interest. It is the desire to discover without being forced to learn. It is to care with authenticity, not inevitability. Curious minds take in the world and the people around them, holding a deep appreciation for the multiple viewpoints offered by those same peers.

The curiosity and desire to know more about yourself and others is a form of deep intimacy that I feel is overlooked far too often. Within my own life, I find curiosity through those I love. Through my affection and empathy, I convey curi-



# Defeating Death My Way



Jacob Fuentes posing besides the UMass Boston sign. Photo submitted by Jacob Fuentes

Jacob Fuentes  
Editor-in-Chief of Web and Mobile

In the month of April, my mother gave birth to a son born with Spina Bifida, a defect where the spinal column does not close completely during fetal development. Sometime within the first four months of pregnancy, my mother was undergoing an ultrasound to reveal my gender. The doctors introduced that I, her baby, would possibly be unable to speak, see, hear, or walk. The next day, the doctor called, insisting that they had to “interrupt the pregnancy,” robbing me of the possibility of living a fruitful life. After hearing my heart beating, my mother, being a woman of strong faith in God, firmly rejected the suggestion and decided to follow through with the birth.

As she lay in a hospital bed surrounded by doctors, I cried a cry of victory after she was constantly told that I was going to be stillborn. I was then placed into a baby crib of glass, clear like crystal, where I stared into my mother’s eyes before I was ushered to close my spine. My mother looked into my eyes once more as she said, “Vamos campeón a pelear por tu vida,” Let’s go fight for your life, champion.

After praying in the recovery room for a couple of hours, my mother was told that the surgery was successful, and I was being closely monitored, considering the frequent development of Hydrocephalus, the abnormal buildup of cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) within the ventricles of the brain, in patients who go through the same surgery.

Three days later, I was once again rushed into surgery, where the doctors implemented a Ventriculoperitoneal Shunt (VP Shunt) in my head to reduce the brain fluids from the Hydrocephalus. I was then placed into intensive care for 31 days, where my mother claims I “cried, ate, and then cried again.” My fight against death continued after my VP Shunt malfunctioned, bringing me to the surgery room for the third time. The doctors placed the shunt on the right side of

osity towards my loved ones to show them that deep down I care for them in complex ways that, although may not be clear at first, it is my curiosity that impels me to explore this love on a deeper level.

Furthermore, although curiosity can be ambiguous, to me it means the deepest level of love. This form of

affection can develop to show that one is willing to want to know more about the world through a lens that may not be entirely clear. Despite this obstacle, its fracturedness is what creates the beautiful kaleidoscope of a scene that may be discovered by not simply assessing what is presented, but by taking a moment to look through the world through a different light and being willing to love the world from all perspectives.

my frontal skull, where it remains to this day. After one month of life, three surgeries, and gallons of breast milk, I was finally allowed to go home.

Five years later, I found myself in a wheelchair, learning my ABC’s as a kindergarten student at the Ferryway School. It was in that building where I faced direct bullying for my disability, enjoyed thousands of elevator rides, and discovered my love for music when I joined the band in the fifth grade.

As I attended Malden High, I discovered my satisfaction in communicating with my peers through emotional struggle, the importance of journalism, and the strength I have gained through my disability. Now, as a senior with leadership in both the band and The Blue and Gold, I thank my peers, teachers, and loved ones for their support through a successful high school career.

I have immense gratitude for the band director, Ms. Foley, who sparked my satisfaction with life through her passion for the arts; Mr. Gallagher, who showed me the beauty of collaboration through journalism and visual art; and my family, who have encouraged me to keep fighting for my place in this world for 18 years.

As I finish the year, I’m proud to say that I will be taking my struggles, perseverance, and talents to UMass Boston as a Sociology major. Just like many other students, my experience at Malden High wasn’t easy.

But I can proudly say that I have few regrets, because as Frank Sinatra once said, “I did it my way.”



## Picture Perfect



Senior football captain and Blue and Gold reporter, Manny Perez #83 preparing for play. VICTORIA DOMICIANO

Manny Perez  
Reporter

As humans, we strive for acceptance. To gain acceptance, we substitute our self-worth for a facade of who we want to be, ultimately becoming posers. Posing is the self we reflect onto others; it is the “perfect” we strive to achieve in order to gain praise from the peers around us.

I want to focus on the idea of “appearing confident.” So often in a human’s life, the idea of appearing confident is the way to success. We mask our pain with material wealth and often disregard all moral aspects in order to achieve personal gain. This creates a “false impression.”

Whether you see it or not, every day we pose. Every day we change bits of our lives to conform to a more perfect scheme. Maybe it is a little lie, maybe it is acting a different way around a specific group of people, no matter what it is, it is not the true image of who we are. We master the art of manipulation.

Why do we feel this urge to satisfy humans? Why don’t we strive to satisfy ourselves? It’s the loss of self-love; we forget that the very reason why we pose is to make ourselves feel better and to feel included with others in an attempt to fill the insecure wounds in our hearts. The only remedy to heal is to love, and it starts within.

Posing comes from brokenness; we believe we are not enough, therefore, we deceive others. We feel we may not be accepted. It is a sad world, but something that we have to realize is that everyone feels that way. Everyone has insecurities. When we learn to love ourselves, we learn to accept, and when we learn that skill, we begin to accept others for who they are. This is how you combat posing.

Loving acceptance is a powerful tool; it is the ability to look beyond someone’s faults and bring them into love. Love and acceptance are the remedies to a broken world. It is a poser’s kryptonite. They crave outer acceptance when what they need is loving acceptance. The ability to be loved unconditionally and not have to be someone they are not to earn love from others.



Jenayah Moreno posing for a picture with Remi Yang during the Girls’ Tennis Senior Night. Photo submitted by Jenayah Moreno



**CONGRATULATIONS TO THE SENIOR BLUE AND GOLD STAFF MEMBERS!**

From left to right, top to bottom: Farris Qanfal, Manny Perez, Victor Cortez Fuertes, Haset Tesfaw, Beatriz Oliveira, Elijah Etienne, Gabriela Parini Cordova, Jenayah Moreno, Chouaib Saidi, Jacob Fuentes, Delina Yohannes

# SALUTATORIAN THOMAS CONTI



Thomas Conti posing with his QuestBridge Match sign. Photo taken from @tc\_trippin on Instagram

Alexia Maciel Lima  
Managing Editor



Exemplifying how relentless dedication and humility can pave the way to success, the class of 2026 Salutatorian Thomas Conti demonstrates the power found in actively seeking out opportunities for oneself when they are not handed to you.

Growing up as a Malden native and being a Linden STEAM Academy graduate, Malden's community has shaped and ingrained itself into Conti's life, relationships, and view of the world around him. Conti remarked how growing up around peers of "different backgrounds, different incomes, different ethnicities, and different perspectives" has provided him "a really unique viewpoint" and allowed him to be "way more free thinking and just open to really anything."

During his time at Malden High School, he took part in creating the Health Occupations Student of America (HOSA) Club and the Science Olympiad Team to create spaces where his passion for science could thrive and spread opportunities for his peers.

"Thomas is just not a gatekeeper in any way. He wants everyone to also have those same opportunities. For an environment that can be competitive, I really respect that. He brings the people up around him," biology teacher Jessica Webber noted.

Over the last two and a half years, he has worked in Dr. Benjamin Ebert's lab at the Dana Farber Cancer Institute conducting research on "target protein degradation and hematologic oncology, which is just blood cancers," Conti explained.

Conti was drawn to pursuing a career in cancer medicine due to his family's history of prostate cancer; he has faced the tragic reality of how damaging a diagnosis can be not only on a patient, but on their family.

Last summer, Conti had the opportunity of shadowing Dr. Jeremy Grevet and working with him to characterize resistances within cancer drugs. "There are countless numbers of families and children and adults who, on a daily basis, are ravaged and disparaged by the fact that they get a diagnosis. I had seen patients come in at their lowest and leave at their highest. That has been very beautiful to me," Conti exclaimed.

Aside from his medical pursuits, Conti has a passion for poetry and performative speaking. He was a 2025 Poetry Out Loud Massachusetts State Finalist and is a dedicated member of Speech & Debate.

Conti credits his interest in poetry stemming from the struggle of "truthfully understanding and being cognizant of my emotions. You tend to push those things to the side and just kind of say that you're okay when you are feeling things, and I have been able to express that through poetry a lot."

Conti played a crucial role in the communal effort of turning the Speech & Debate club into a class, his contributions consisted of talking to former Superintendent Ligia Noriega-Murphy to build the "momentum," and initiating the "renewed effort" with the transition of power to Superintendent Dr. Timothy Sippel, History and Speech & Debate teacher Kurtis Scheer mentioned.

"The leadership has always been strong and even in Thomas's first few years doing Speech & Debate, I could always see that he was somebody that was ready and willing to take over when the juniors and seniors moved on and had the ability to lead and organize," Scheer added.

Conti will be attending Harvard University through the QuestBridge National College Match and majoring in Molecular and Cellular Biology. He was driven to selecting Harvard as his first pick due to the countless connections and resources available for a pre-med space in the Boston area.

# VALEDICTORIAN KELLY YE



Chelmie Hyppolite  
Managing Editor

Kelly Ye and her friends posing in front of their presentation. Photo submitted by Kelly Ye

As the school year comes to a close, the Class of 2026 is prepared to walk the stage, marking the end of their four-year high school journey. The 2026 valedictorian, Kelly Ye, is one of the many students ready to throw their caps as cheers from loved ones flood MacDonald Stadium.

With high school coming to an end, Valedictorian Ye has come to the everlasting realization that "school is as valuable as you make it to be." Despite her common dread of Mondays,



her struggles in feeling a need to live up to parental expectations. Although these expectations have made her who she is today, encouraging her to work harder, she found a new focus—not in external validation—but in simply working hard to meet her own dreams and wishes for the future. "I want to be the best version of myself," expressed Ye.

Taking extensive courses like AP Re-



Kelly Ye posing with her fellow NHS members. Photo submitted by Kelly Ye

search, AP Physics II, AP Language and Composition, AP Calculus BC, AP Chemistry, and more, Ye has demonstrated not only her academic excellence, but also integrity. Going into engineering, Ye dedicated the majority of her academics to the sciences yet, she has also taken a deeper dive into what she believes makes a good engineer.

Ye, who is committed to major in mechanical engineering at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, highlighted

"I believe what makes

a good engineer is having diverse perspectives and skillsets, which is why I wanted to work on my writing and research skills as well," noted Ye.

Out of the many classes Ye has taken throughout her high school career, she depicts AP Physics I taught by Brian Morrison as the most memorable but also one of the most challenging classes she'd ever taken. Morrison believes that Ye's "integrity, humility, and genuine enthusiasm for learning inspires those around her."

Ye recalls spending hours watching physics videos especially before the AP exam, but she grew to love the subject. "The class taught me to take initiative for my learning and working hands on and performing calculations with labs made me realize I love the process of investigating and creating tools," said Ye.

Besides academics, Ye's extracurriculars revolve around student clubs. As president of both Science National Honors Society and Key Club, she had displayed her immense communication skills.

As a female, a minority in the engineering field, Ye is extremely passionate about "bringing STEM education towards younger generations and minority communities through educational initiatives with SNHS, Red Cross, and Girls Who Code."

For Ye, high school will be remembered as a feeling of fondness and warmth: "desperately holding in laughter mid-class, post-exam hot pots with my physics class, taking long 'bathroom breaks' with friends, and much more."

All in all, Ye is glad to have gotten through it all with her community.



Kelly Ye and her friends at BrUMO event. Photo submitted by Kelly Ye



Thomas Conti posing with Dr. Benjamin Ebert and lab colleagues. Photo taken from @tc\_trippin on Instagram

Conti encourages any student interested to apply through QuestBridge because "even if you don't think you're going to want to do the whole match process, you should, because you'll get a huge network of people" and it "guarantees a full four year scholarship." Malden students could greatly benefit from this opportunity.

While Conti acknowledges that Harvard is historically a prejudiced school, he detailed how he hopes what he can bring to Harvard is "someone from an area who kind of knows what it's like to not really have a lot and know what it's like for those people who don't really have that many opportunities. Those values of understanding a broader community and understanding

Thomas Conti performing at the Mass Poetry Teen Spoken Word Festival 2026. Photo taken from @tc\_trippin on Instagram

what it takes to come out of the den as we speak, is really huge."

Reflecting on the indelible legacy Conti will leave at MHS, Scheer noted how he will leave the impact of "not willing to sit back and let things be, but

to challenge teachers, to challenge the new principal, to challenge the city to do well. He is able to hold people accountable, but also to work with them."

Conti echoed the importance of making sure that your voice is heard: "I know that everyone is feeling slightly worried about the future of Malden High and the most important thing that you can do is not be silent about it and make sure that everyone and anyone can hear your perspectives. This school has been and forever will be a product of its students, its teachers, who make it happen. So, make it happen."



## ORATOR

## LINCOLN BOSWELL



Lincoln Boswell posing with his trombone. Photo submitted by Lincoln Boswell

Jenayah Moreno  
Editor-in-Chief of Print and Design

From National Honor Society, taking on calculus as a sophomore, constructing robots in robotics clubs, to sprinting down track fields, Lincoln Boswell has done it all. Even through the list of his extracurriculars, Boswell's main priorities always revolved around his academics. Boswell's academic achievements have brought him to the top three of the class of 2026.

Since the beginning of high school, Boswell had his priorities straight. He knew his ambitions would be difficult to keep up with all at once, yet he continued to strive to accomplish everything that he desired. Boswell shared an analogy that was his best kept secret to balancing his schedule with academics and his outside life.

"Take a glass jar, imagine your activities, those you really care about, as big rocks, imagine extracurriculars, things that you like to do as smaller rocks, and then imagine everything else as like fine sand. If you try to fill up your jar of time with the fine sand first, the rest won't fit. You have to put the rocks in first, then the pebbles, then the sand, and that's how everything fits."

Through his strengthened mindset, Boswell fulfilled his four years with unforgettable memories. Some of his favorites to recall are his times on the cross country and track team, a space where Boswell could connect with friends and express his passion for running. "The track and cross country teams were a welcoming safe space where I could talk with friends," Boswell noted. In addition, he expressed the memories he created on his summer trips through programs that built unexpected connections for him. "I don't think my freshman year self would have believed that I would have the connections I have today as a result of those programs," Boswell reflected.

For his future, Boswell will follow a strong STEM pathway at the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute where he will study nuclear engineering, a pathway he discovered his interest in through his time in the engineering club. "What I plan to do is head into a career where I can make a difference, putting that research to use to help develop the next generation of nuclear reactors, because energy runs the world at this point," Boswell explained.

Reflecting on his last few years, Boswell demonstrated his utmost gratitude for his teachers for being his support system, and encouraging him to take his academics to the level he has. Boswell thanked Lauren Foley for her support in the band department, the science department for supporting him through his STEM-focused interests, math coach Sarah Jones and former math teacher Genoveva Mateeva for their push towards his excel in math courses, and his computer science teacher and advisor Paul Marques. "They've been really supportive, and they've just been great role models," Boswell remarked.

As Boswell prepares to leave his Malden High legacy behind, he leaves a remake for those looking to follow the path he did. "Don't forget the value of education. Your free public high school, your free public middle school is an invaluable resource to you. I hope you've used it well. I think caring about what you learn is a key part of my success," Boswell concluded.



## President Linh Do



Linh Do posing with her fellow Posse Rutgers University commits. Photo submitted by Linh Do

Evelyn Ruan  
Head of Sports

Graduation marks a new chapter in life, reliving the challenges that were faced, but also feeling grateful for things that have come and learned throughout. Tasked with the leadership of Class of 2026, President Linh Do has showed dedication, spirit, and thoughtfulness while representing the CO '26 voices. Raising over twenty-five thousand dollars from various events, the class left a memorable impact, making graduation worth the final wait.

Being a class president, the role has taught her to be able to "reach out and connect to people to being able to not only organize events, but people as well." Do understands her vital role in the student council and that her "decision is one of the most important voices in the council."

Some of the most notable successful events under her leadership in raising money were Junior Varieties, Homecoming, and holding concession stands. Do has also been a part of the field hockey team, outdoor track, and Key Club during her junior year.

Apart from her outstanding role as president, she is also a hard-working student who thrives on making things fun for everyone around her. While transitioning from freshman to senior year,

she realized that she had many habits "surrounding academics and time management" that would make it difficult for her to overcome in college.

However, she pushed through college-level work while keeping "an organized schedule," and learned to challenge herself with rigorous courses and AP classes. "For me, loading myself up with all these things to do with extracurriculars or academic work, it creates structure in my life, which I think is very important going into college."

As a person, Do has learned "that the people

and faculty are truly there to help out, "even if it really feels like everyone is out to get you." She emphasized to build good relationships with your teachers as it can help benefit a change in your outcome.

Most people say that freshman year is the easiest year of high school. However, "I believe that senior year is probably the most fun and most free because you just have access to so many more things," mentioned Do. Events such as getting a driver's license, college, knowing more people and understanding that there are so many more

ny ability to see beyond her immediate circle and notice everyone and care

about everyone." For Haskell's birthday,

"during her sophomore year she got me 42 donuts" for turning 42 and even did her nails for her wedding, highlighting Do's kindness. "She makes even the most stressful moments more fun."

Haskell also wanted to highlight how incredibly proud she is for Do. "I can't wait to see what she does



Class of 2026 President Linh Do and Event Coordinator Vin Chau posing with cameras in their hands. ISRAA MALHOUNI

you choose to be friends with is so incredibly important especially in high school." She highlights that the people you surround yourself with, "will set the foundation for who you are as a person and what other people perceive you as."

She has also learned that teachers

opportunities ahead. To the underclassmen, "do not slack off your freshman year either because it sets the foundation for your GPA and your academic career overall but also don't sweat it."

Knowing Do for three years now, science teacher Katherine Haskell describes her as a "funny and thoughtful" person. Haskell notes that "she has developed an uncan-

with her life because no matter what she chooses to do in the future, I know she is going to continue to be an amazing person and have a positive effect on everyone around her."

Hoping to leave Malden High with a positive and optimistic impact on her peers, she will be majoring in Biochemistry with a minor in Psychology at Rutgers University through a full Tuition Posse Scholarship.

As a final message to the Class of 2026, "never stop trying because there is always someone out there that believes in you."



Class of 2026 Treasurer Avani Chhetri and President Linh Do posing for a picture at senior sunrise. Photo submitted by Linh Do



# WHO DID IT?

? THE BUTLER

? THE COOK

? THE MAID

Miss Scarlett, played by junior Alexia Maciel Lima, smoking a cigar as she listens to the butler, Wadsworth, expose the guests' scandals. FATIMA HUSAIN

*Continued from front page*

the different frequented locations and a chessboard-patterned floor being a tribute to the board game. Messana shared that this production was "one of the best" she has seen be "put into action" since working at Malden High, explaining that set work began "all the way back in March."

"I want to applaud Ms. Messana for doing a wonderful job balancing the actors, the set, and the technicalities—she helped us produce the best production of the year," remarked sophomore Sofia Rivera.

The guests represented a spectrum of social and political backgrounds including: Colonel Mustard, a pompous military man played by senior Matt Jason Chan, Mrs. White, a woman with a suspicious history of deceased husbands played by Rivera, Mrs. Peacock, the wife of a senator played by sophomore Lyra Heining, Mr. Green, played by senior Kenny Wong, Professor Plum, a psychiatrist played by senior Oscar Luc, and Miss Scarlett, a sassy woman played by junior Alexia Lima, who is also the Managing Editor of The Blue and Gold.

Heining expressed that Clue gave the actors plenty of "wiggle room to play with the themes" and the character portrayals, elaborating that while Sound and Design stuck to creating an "ominous and creepy" tone, the actors "leaned into the slapstick comedy bit."

From the beginning, the audience can detect an eerie tone as dialogues carried double meanings and characters held animosity toward each other. After the guests discover they are all from Washington D.C., tensions continue to heighten as their host remains absent through the evening and through dinner, causing

Colonel Mustard to snap. Wadsworth then reveals that all the guests are being blackmailed by their host, Mr. Boddy, played by senior Liam Gallagher, for various secrets and scandals. One by one, Wadsworth exposes the guests. Professor Plum, who had his license revoked for conducting an inappropriate relationship with his client; Mrs. Peacock, who accepted bribes to allocate her husband's votes to lobbyists; Miss Scarlett, who runs an escort service; Mrs. White, who is suspected of murdering her previous husbands; Colonel Mustard, who was photographed frequenting a brothel;

And finally, Mr. Green, who is homosexual. Any of these findings coming to light could ruin reputations and jobs. Luc stated that playing an "educated and cocky, but also sneaky in disguise" character allowed him "to do more funny gestures that added to the murder mystery, but also the comedy aspect of the show."

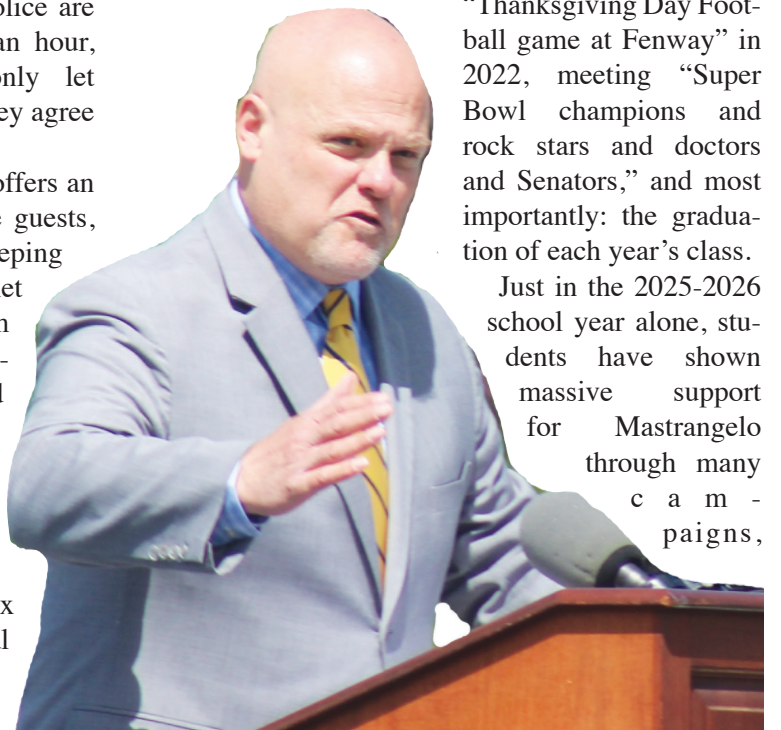
Upon hearing these allegations, Mrs. Peacock attempted to leave, only to learn that the manor had been locked. As the guests were sent into a frenzied panic, Mr. Boddy arrived, walking down the Jenkin auditorium as "SexyBack" by Justin Timberlake played on

the speakers. Their host only adds to their panic, revealing that he possesses a briefcase full of evidence and the police are arriving within an hour, proposing to only let them escape if they agree to pay double.

However, he offers an alternative to the guests, claiming that keeping Wadsworth quiet was costing him dearly and removing him would end matters once and for all. To resolve the situation, Boddy presents to each guest a gift box containing a lethal weapon: a candlestick to Scar-

lett, a dagger to Peacock, a lead pipe to Green, a revolver to Plum, a rope to

*Continued on page 8*



Left to right: The singing telegram girl, played by sophomore Sabrima Bhattarai, right before she died; Colonel Mustard, played by senior Matt Jason Chan, escorting the Motorist, played by junior Gray Herrera, into Boddy Manor; Mrs. Peacock, played by sophomore Lyra Heining, drinking out of Boddy's glass that was later presumed to be poisoned. FATIMA HUSAIN



## Final Farewell

*Continued from front page*

spreadsheet; it's the human touch that he has. That's really unbelievable," continued Tivnan.

Throughout his time, Mastrangelo has shown so much support for the school with his school spirit, which has translated into the events that have become so memorable in the first place. The Pep Rally, student and faculty sports games, fundraisers, all these events in recent years were only possible because of Mastrangelo himself.

Mastrangelo's career also coincided with the Coronavirus pandemic, which added to his list of responsibilities. However, despite the challenge, Craven credited Mastrangelo for aiding students and teachers immensely, focusing on getting everyone online.

Additionally, Mastrangelo recalled various special events, like the "Thanksgiving Day Football game at Fenway" in 2022, meeting "Super Bowl champions and rock stars and doctors and Senators," and most importantly: the graduation of each year's class.

Just in the 2025-2026 school year alone, students have shown massive support for Mastrangelo through many campaigns,

such as on the Instagram account @maldehighwalkout, through petitions, and the walkout on December 8, with staff members, students, and parents advocating during a school committee meeting the same evening. In a way, it was a final celebration of the school rising for the occasion.

"I hope that we never lose sight of this school, that the number one most important thing we do every day is connect with the kids," wished Mastrangelo. He hopes his legacy will be remembered as not counting Malden staff and students as statistics, but rather, being appreciated for being themselves.

"I live 36 miles away. I have cherished every moment of my time in the city. This school, this city, has been a big part of me, my family, my identity, and if I'm being honest with you, I don't think I've completely come to grips with the fact that it's coming to an end. So if not, in person, certainly from afar. It's too much, too much a part of who I am to just dry up when I leave," Mastrangelo added.

*Continued on page 8*

# LEAVING BEHIND HISTORY

Continued from page 7

Mastrangelo finished by reminding everyone to “cherish the time that you have here. Know that there are people that work here, that really love and care for each of you, and don’t lose sight of the fact that this is a very special place filled with very special people.”



Principal Chris Mastrangelo delivering a speech at the 2025-2026 Blue and Gold Art Gallery.

# AND SO THE PLOT THICKENS...

Continued from page 7

White, and a wrench to Mustard. He then cut off the lights.

In the darkness, a gunshot rang out, and when the lights turned back on, Boddy lay dead on the floor—or so it seemed. Despite the previous gunshot, Boddy had no bullet wound, leaving the guests wondering what caused his death. It is then that a scream is heard from the Billiards Room.

The scream had belonged to Yvette, who had learned of Boddy’s death after being instructed to tape the conversation in the study for more evidence. Frantically, the guests all claim that none of them was the murderer, and asked if there was anyone else in the manor, to which Wadsworth and Yvette replied, “Only ze cook!”

Yet, upon arriving in the kitchen, the Cook’s body, played by senior Thayla Miranda Carvalho, was found in the fridge with a dagger in her back. Frightened, the guests returned to the study, only to find Boddy’s body had disappeared. Peacock eventually finds him in the hall, truly dead this time, killed with the lead pipe. Meanwhile, Scarlett opens Boddy’s briefcase only to find that it contains no evidence.

Having transferred from another theatre program a few months ago, Carvalho reflected, “I’ve had a lovely experience with Ms. Messana, who gives all actors plenty of room to use their imagination and put it into blocking and character development.”

The plot thickens as outsiders begin to arrive, each of whom is connected to the guests’ secrets, and end up dead. The first victim is the Motorist, played by junior Gray Herrera, who is killed with the wrench, while making a call in the study.

In the meantime, Mustard suggests that the group split up and search the manor. An amusing montage was created as the characters

ran through the painted doors while “Psychokiller” by Talking Heads played. While searching, Scarlett and Mustard find a trap door in the conservatory that leads to the lounge, where Yvette had shot down the door to release them.

As the characters continue their bickering, a cop, played by senior Kail Boswell, arrives. Incessant in inspecting the house, the guests pretend to party, posing the dead bodies as drunk. The tension reaches a breaking point when the electricity is cut, leading to a frantic sequence where the characters navigate the dark,

stumbling over bodies and each other.

When the electricity returns, the cop is found dead in the library, killed by the candlestick, and Yvette has been strangled in the Billiards Room with the rope.

Amidst the frenzy, a singing telegram girl steps in, only to be shot dead a second later. Finally, Wadsworth goes on a spiel recap- ping the events

of the night, concluding that whoever has the revolver is the killer. When the revolver is found on Plum, the cops barge into the manor ready to arrest him; however, he claims that Mustard is the murderer. The scene involves several rewinds, and at the end of each, the murderer is someone different.

For the final plot twist, Green reveals himself to be an undercover FBI agent who was planted to catch the others’ crimes. It is then that the audience receives the true tale. The first murder of the night, Boddy’s murder, was carried out by Wadsworth. However, the man killed was not the real Boddy—Wadsworth was. It is explained that Boddy invited the guests not to just blackmail them, but to watch them kill the informants gathered.

“I think acting is about expressing yourself and developing your character by using your own creativity and even life experiences, while placing them under your character’s circumstances,” added Carvalho.

The following murders occurred for these reasons: The Cook was killed by Peacock’s dagger because she used to work for the family and was the one who discovered the bribes, the Motorist was killed by Mustard’s wrench because he was his former driver who drove him to the brothel, the cop was killed by Scarlett’s candlestick because he was accepting bribes to keep quiet about her business, Yvette was killed by White’s rope because she had an affair with her husband, and the singing telegram girl was killed by Plum because she was one of his patients that he had an affair with.

For the final act, Green shoots Boddy, the cops storm the house, and the remaining guests are arrested.

Seeing as this was the last show of the year, emotions ran high between the senior cast members and Messana, who had formed close bonds over their time together. “It’s bittersweet knowing that there are so many people to carry on what Play Pro has in the coming years, but I will miss every moment I had with this class,” expressed Gallagher.

“It always gets really emotional when the seniors are getting ready to go, and while this show kept us busy from thinking about it, after closing night the concept became real. But the beautiful thing about theater is that students always come back. We had alumni come and watch Clue, and became incredibly proud of how the theater program at Malden High has grown,” concluded Messana.

## CONGRATS TO MALDEN HIGH RETIREES!



**JOUMANA SALAMEH CAFFERTY**  
Language Department



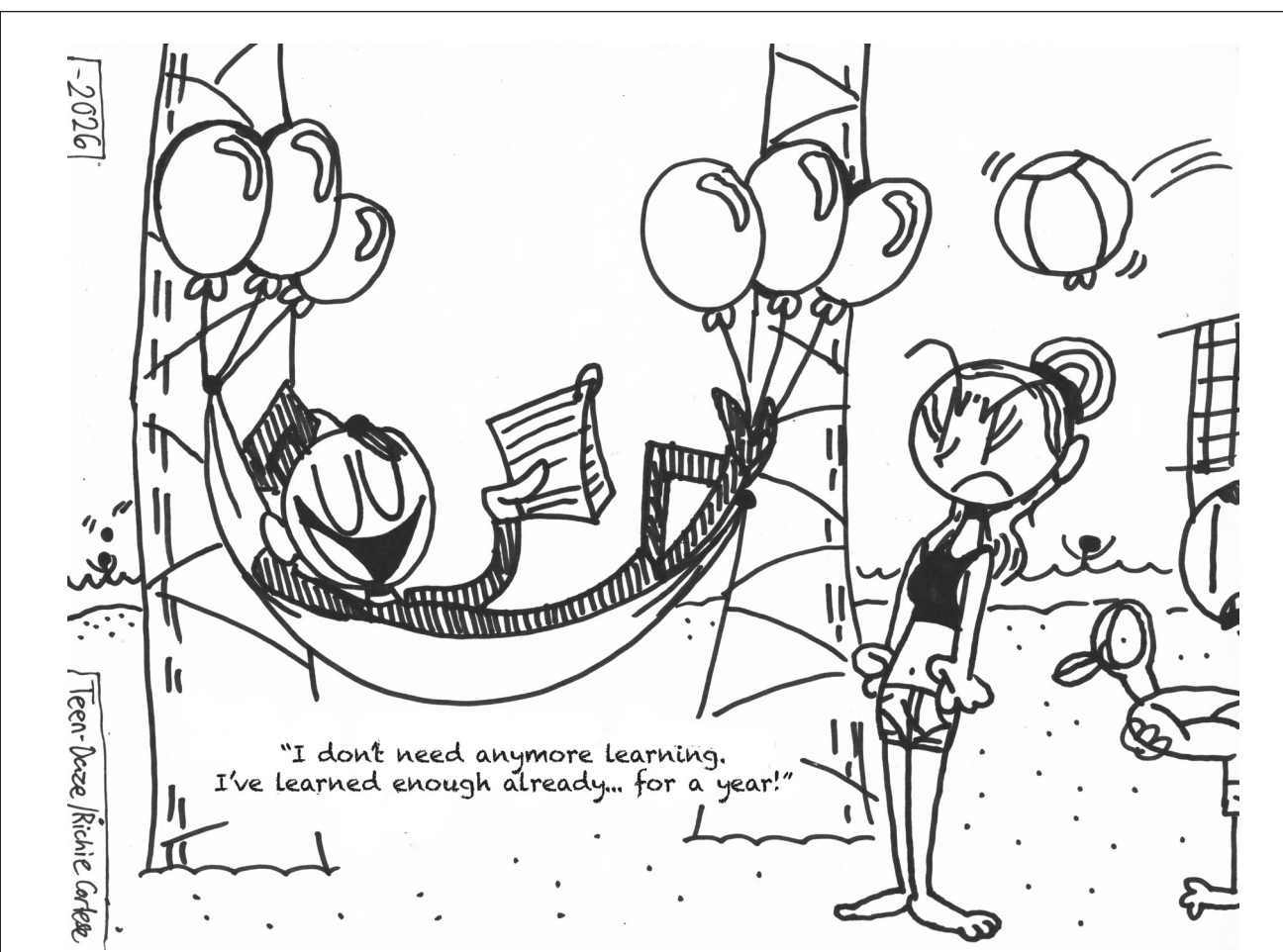
**MARIANNE GENOVA-LONG**  
Math Department



**MARSHA HEALEY**  
History Department



**GLORIA-MARCELA VALDERRAMA**  
Occupational Therapist



CAN WE  
FILL THIS  
SPACE  
WITH  
ADS?



# Malden Alumni Reunite at Hall of Fame



Dr. Philip Conti gives his induction speech to show his appreciation while also reminiscing his experiences. CHOUAIB SAIDI

*Continued from front page*

This year's inductees, who were being celebrated, were Arlene Vellemen, Dr. Philip Conti, Michael Souza, Kevin Jarvis, Dr. Alan "Lanny" Berman, and Phyllis Karas. Arlene Vellemen is a part of Malden High's graduating class of 1973 and has worked as an educator for over 40 years, where she has specialized in working with hearing-impaired students and teaching American Sign Language (ASL).

Her passion for ASL was sparked through reading and memorizing Lottie Riekehof's Talk to the Deaf in elementary school, which led her principal to put her together with a girl who was deaf. "Her whole family was deaf, and the mom gave me my name sign. The rest was history," Vellemen explained.

Vellemen's choice to continue pursuing learning ASL in college and beyond with the National Theater of the Deaf was a "no-brainer"; she was then able to transfer her skills into her first teaching position at the Perkins School for the Blind in Watertown.

The hands-on experience proved to be valuable as she transitioned to teaching special education at Waltham High School and started the ASL program as the first ASL teacher in the school's history. Aside from her role as educator, Vellemen supported the Watertown Children's Theater with ASL interpretations.

Vellemen's mission as an impassioned advocate of meeting the needs of all students emphasizes that "if people feel like giving up, to continue and keep going because you never know whose life you're going to touch."

Dr. Philip Conti of the graduating class of 1953 has also dedicated his life to serving his community. After attaining his Bachelor's in Biology at Brandeis University and his Doctorate of Dental Medicine at Tufts University, he administered dental services in communities such as Malden for 60 years.

He simultaneously studied voice at the New England Conservatory of Music, a passion he originally fostered at MHS through Green Room Dramatic Art Society and Choral Arts and his relationships with his directors that carried over into his life outside of high school.

He started Project Triangle in 1971, a non-profit organization focused on empowering the careers and lives of people with disabilities. "What I learned growing up, with my family being involved with the Order Sons of Italy in Malden and through their charitable organizations, you got the feeling that you have to get back to the community. You can't just be taking," Dr. Conti highlighted.

Vellemen and her graduating class unanimously

voted to generously donate all of their senior class funds to Project Triangle, making them the largest donor that year. Singer-songwriter Stevie Wonder heard of their class' selflessness and visited Malden High's Jenkins Auditorium to play a private concert for them.

Both Vellemen and Dr. Conti's stories emphasize the indelible impact educators can have on one's life in and outside of the classroom. Vellemen's teachers, Elizabeth Gowell and Jim McCann, encouraged her to pursue being a teacher, and Dr. Conti had a lifelong friendship and musical partnership with his chorus teacher Robert K. Love that pushed him to further his musical career.

1975 graduate Michael Souza also credits his experiences growing up in the supportive environment of Malden High, leading to his "whole life trajectory" changing. Souza played both football and baseball throughout high school, which led his guidance counselor, Mr. Marino, to aid him in finding colleges and connecting with coaches.

After committing to Amherst College, Souza went into business, where he aids financially struggling companies and explores his interests in poetry simultaneously. Souza has served as the first Chief Executive Officer of Beth Israel Deaconess Health System's Affiliated Physicians Group and the CEO and President of New England Life Care.

Souza echoed that if you "stick to your values" and lead a life of honesty, you will find success, as he learned from his mentors throughout his college search process.

Kevin Jarvis of the class of 1974 served in the Marine Corps out of high school, quickly assuming the position of Staff Sergeant. After his duty, he worked in Federal Law Enforcement until he eventually returned to Malden as a Veterans' Services Officer.

To serve and honor the community he and his family were raised in, Jarvis "dedicated six lifetime bronze statues of combat veterans" throughout the city alongside renovations, such as his work on Devir Park and Bell Rock Park.

"You can do whatever you want. It's not going to be easy and you're going to need help from friends and family. When you get into a job somewhere, coworkers will help you, I found that out," Jarvis added.

Phyllis Karas, Class of 1961, described her time at MHS as "beautiful, and just fun." Karas was an assistant editor for the Malden High School Newspaper, The Blue and Gold, and used it as a foundation to begin her writing career, as she has published numerous young adult novels, such as "Living the Life: Wit, Wisdom and Woe".

Karas primarily focuses her work on crime as she has collaborated with authors like Kevin Weeks while co-authoring Brutal: The Untold Story of My Life Inside Whitey Bulger's South Boston Mob.

When Karas is not writing about crime, you can find her writing about celebrities in People Magazine as well as numerous memoirs, such as the memoir of Academy Award winner Louis Gossett Jr. titled An Actor and A Gentleman.

Karas is a professor at Boston University operating out of the School of Journalism, for which she has received great recognition in her time as professor by accepting awards from the New England Press Association, such as the Best Feature Story, as well as the Simone Rockower Award for Excellence in Feature Writing in Moment Magazine.

"I feel very honored and very humbled.

At this stage of my life, it's nice to be honored for anything, and especially this, because the school meant a lot to me. It's just more than just a building.

It was my whole life. Very, very special, it's very powerful," Karas claimed.

Dr. Alan "Lanny" Berman from the graduating class of 1961 received his BA from Johns Hopkins University as well as a Ph.D from the Catholic University of America. He is a world-renowned specialist in suicidology as well as saving the lives of veterans, women, and men who are determined to end their lives.

Dr. Berman worked as the Director of the National Center for the Study and Prevention of Suicide at the Washington School of Psychiatry, in which he specialized in an authoritative role to bring attention to the matter at hand, while also progressing to become the Executive Director of the American Association of Suicidology.

Dr. Berman's hard work is a testament to his roots that originally started to sprout here at Malden High School.

"Being back in Malden High is sort of unreal. I mean, it's been 64 years since I was in this building. I've been back in the city about five times. It's wonderful, it brings back a lot of memories," Berman mentioned.

Dr. Berman has received the 1982 Shneidman Award for Outstanding Contributions in Suicidology Research as well as the Louis I. Dublin Award in 2006; on top of that, he was also elected President of the International Association for Suicide Prevention twice. Berman is also one of only seven civilians to receive a Congressional appointment to the Department of Defense Task Force (DDTF) among members of the Armed Forces.

"I don't know if I deserve this. You know the goods of life, I have a career, and do what I do. How does that compare to 100 other people who probably deserve it more than I do? It's humbling," Berman expressed.

Later on that night, the Alumni Association hosted their Annual Induction Night, hosted at Anthony's at 105 Canal Street, Malden, and run by Arlene Cepetelli and Camille Colantuoni. The night started off with everyone casually settling in, grabbing drinks, and acclimating themselves to the environment.

As everything settled and everyone had enjoyed their delicious meals and fulfilling appetizers, Malden High School Principal Christopher Mastrangelo started introducing the inductees.

The night elicited a lot of emotions, from reminiscence, laughs about old times, and memories made through various inside jokes and sports references. The ceremony was bittersweet and tender, all the right emotions that made this Induction night as special as it needed to be.

However, the Induction Ceremony was not the only highlight of the night. The Alumni Association prepared a surprise for Principal Mastrangelo to celebrate his departure from Malden High School, as they gifted him an award of their own to celebrate the difference he has made at Malden High.

"To those who know me, I am often never this speechless when it comes to things like this," Mastrangelo claimed at the conclusion of the ceremony.

In times of gratitude and remembrance, Malden High School is a common ground that Hall of Fame inductees, as well as departing principals, can look back on and hone the impact that they have had at Malden High, and how that bittersweet feeling will always be close to the heart.



From left to right: Micheal Souza, Kevin Jarvis, Arlene Vellemen, Dr. Philip Conti, Phyllis Karas, and Dr. Alan "Lanny" Berman. ALEXIA LIMA



Christopher Mastrangelo accepting his award of appreciation by the Alumni Association during the Induction Night. CHOUAIB SAIDI

## ZAMIMA Breaks Barriers to Education



A classroom run by the Zamima Initiative in Afghanistan, where girls actively participate in lessons and engage with their teacher in a growing learning space. Photo submitted by Zamima Initiative student.

Chelmie Hyppolite  
Managing Editor

Education is something we often take for granted. Many of us, who spend what seems like forever sitting in class, wish to be at any place besides school. Yet, there are many worldwide who don't have access to an education that we are fortunate enough to receive everyday.

According to a United Nations report from 2024, there are 251 million children globally who are out of school. Strikingly, Afghanistan is the only country to formally ban girls from obtaining a secondary education. Currently in Afghanistan, girls are banned from school after they reach age 12; this ban has been ongoing for 1,705 days, which is roughly 4.5 years.

From the 1960s to the 1990s, many girls in Afghanistan thrived, entering a period of educational growth. Many schools and universities, some in urban areas, admitted a large number of girls. Yet, this progress was brought to an abrupt stop when the Taliban took over in 1996-2001.

After 2001, an era of renewal seemed to begin as girls began to re-enroll in primary and secondary education. Just as girls in Afghanistan began establishing their hope, the Taliban took over Afghanistan

in 2021. As a result, more than 2 million Afghan girls are denied an education. Growing up in Afghanistan, junior reporter for The Blue and Gold, Safa Niazi, witnessed girls in her community struggling with the lack of access to an education at quite a young age. "Some of my childhood friends were forced into early marriages, and others faced serious emotional and mental challenges because they were unable to continue their studies," explained Niazi.

Once Niazi moved to the United States with her family, leaving her once familiar community behind, she realized that she had the opportunity to make a change. "That realization made me feel a responsibility to act," said Niazi.

Thus, in 2025 Safa Niazi and her sister, sophomore and Reporter for The Blue and Gold Khkola Niazi, founded ZAMIMA, a youth-led initiative dedicated to supporting Afghan girls who are denied access to an education. Niazi detailed that ZAMIMA started in a small neighborhood, "built on trust and connection" where the founders relied on those that they know personally to strive to create a safe and supportive learning environment.

Operating this educational initiative in Afghanistan comes with serious challenges. Since government restrictions continue, ZAMIMA has to navigate how it functions and its presentation wari-ly in order to continue safely. Niazi de-

scribed how connecting with the girls in Afghanistan can be difficult due to these restrictions, distance, and time differences. "Even though we are physically far away, we remain closely involved in their progress and continue to support them in every way we can," Niazi highlighted.

Their small group of only 15 students has now grown to 45 students in just one year, who despite risks have ignited their hopes for an education.

Due to years without education, many girls have forgotten even the most basic skills. As a result, when ZAMIMA first began many girls were unable to read or write. As of now, ZAMIMA offers the following subjects: Pashto and Dari literacy, English, and painting.

Niazi hopes on expanding the curriculum "based on the students' needs and interests" yet these possible expansions depend on the resources, safety, and "what is realistically possible under current conditions." Some possible expansions could be more advanced English, basic science, or even life skills that could help the girls with day-to-day communication and confidence.

"The girls are improving in reading and writing, participating more in class, and expressing themselves with greater confidence. They are more engaged, more motivated, and more hopeful about their future," Niazi emphasized.

In order to spread more awareness about the reality of girls' education in Afghanistan, both Safa and Khkola presented their work to members of the Malden community on April 17th at Malden Catholic High School. "Having events like these not only bring awareness to important topics outside of the U.S., but also show how crucial it is to help those around us," noted Malden Catholic junior Gulianna Dormevil.

The event was sponsored by Middle East-

ern North African Club (MENA) and co-sponsored by the Diversity & Inclusion Student Council, demonstrating how this issue is not just centered towards Afghanistan but is a substantial global issue that all should be paying attention to.

During the presentation they dived into the origin of ZAMIMA and their classroom, the challenges they face, and the progress they have seen. Their presentation illuminated how meaningful differences can begin at a local level, even when addressing larger global issues.

A video was then presented which showcased the classroom ZAMIMA provides in Afghanistan and volunteers of the initiative, along with interviews from ZAMIMA students, a teacher, and finally an Afghan boy who reflected on his privilege to an education—comparing his situation to his sisters.

"I felt really emotional seeing all the different posters and watching the presentation because it put into perspective how I should be grateful to attend school everyday as many girls in the Middle East don't have that option," stated Dormevil.

With the immense amount of growth ZAMIMA has seen in just a year it is clear that their efforts are being displayed. ZAMIMA is not just a classroom but rather a response to injustice that reminds us that resilience can lead to new opportunities. "Every girl deserves a chance to keep dreaming beyond 6th grade. Zamima is our promise to stand beside them as they grow into who they're meant to be," Khkola Niazi concluded.

To the left: sophomore Blue and Gold reporter Khkola Niazi and junior reporter Safa Niazi up on the microphone.

## Malden High Confronts Brain Drain at Northeastern

Emily Weihrauch  
Head of Local

In one's junior year at Malden High, it is customary for the only quarter three test grade to be a Model United Nations presentation that requires weeks of preparation and research regarding a pair of students' assigned nation and topic. But, what if you were invited to participate in a Model UN simulation where the only information known beforehand is the primary topic participants must join together to form a resolution on?

This was the case for Malden High students on May 1st, where a group of students led by history teachers Kurtis Scheer and Sarah Straight went on a field trip to Northeastern University and Wentworth Polytechnic Institute to learn and create a hypothetical solution for Brain Drain worldwide that would address all parts of its issue.

### Brain Drain

The term might be unfamiliar to most. At first glance, the meaning one might derive from it may not align with its true definition. Brain Drain occurs when highly skilled professionals emigrate to nations more developed and advanced than their own to either study a certain skillset or work in that field. This can be influenced by opportunities for higher pay, improved working conditions, improved political conditions, and more.

The nations involved with this presentation had a variety of different "push and pull" factors; some countries had issues that arose with population numbers such as India and Italy, some had ongoing violence-related issues, such as Mozambique, and some nations, such as Brazil and Mexico, already had existing solutions that had the opportunity to be workshopped during the conference.

During the registration process, advisors assigned delegates a pair of students representing a designated nation—the country that they were to represent during the conference. With the assignment came a tag labeling what school, committee room, and country a student represented. Once assigned to your country, each delegate receives a folder with brief information on Brain Drain, their country's experience with the issue, and ideas that the delegates can explore in their causes.

"I never knew what Brain Drain was and its significance in the world. It really opened my eyes about the issues we currently have in our society and what needs to be addressed," shared junior Ann Nguyen, who represented South Africa with junior Beyonce Pierre-Rene.

### Navigating the Conference

The Malden High team met in Cafeteria A, bright and early, at 8 am to hand in final permission slips and



Senior Nour Jaayfer and junior Jason Dutaille, delegates for Mozambique who won the "Best Delegates" award for their conference room. EMILLY WEIHRAUCH

meet up in order to head to Malden Center Station. The group took the Orange Line down to Ruggles Station, where both campuses are closely located. Malden High made it to Watson Auditorium in Wentworth Hall roughly ten minutes before registration closed.

The conference, hosted by the United Nations Association of Greater Boston (UNAGB), gave students and faculty explicit directions on the materials they needed and an overview of what the day and schedule would look like.

During the opening ceremony, facilitators provided students with background information, primarily about what "LDCs" (Least Developed Countries)

Continued on page 12

## Brain Drain

Continued from page 11

are, and how Brain Drain specifically affects them. Students listened intently, took notes, and shared ideas with their delegates during this time.

Inside each delegate's folder were template sheets that allowed students to begin writing their position paper and research based on their provided resources, while announcers in the hall gave directions and more background information on Brain Drain. This was a strict no-technology conference; therefore, students could only reference their assigned folders for information, and phones were to be put away during the conference.

Once students were informed about the details of the conference, schools were split up based on the number on their name tags; Malden was split between rooms 5, 6, and 7. Groups diverged into different parts of the campus, but primarily residing in empty classrooms in Northeastern's Bouvé College of Health Sciences.

The rooms had a mix of kids from each of the involved high schools and middle schools. Schools from all over Massachusetts, ranging from Worcester to Boston itself, came mixed within conference rooms, allowing Malden delegates to meet new faces, encouraging a professional workspace for all where schools and students with different backgrounds can come together and provide new perspectives on issues.

## Model UN Simulation

Once students were settled in their conference rooms, the opening speeches that were drafted in Wentworth Hall were now to be presented to officially commence the simulations.

In a room full of hardworking students excited to receive potential awards, competition and determination were bound to arise. Between students professionally arguing their points and the most impactful parts of their drafted solutions, nations argued for representation of their respective problems with Brain Drain.

Some conference rooms had great collaboration among groups, leading to a few resolutions with great complexity forming between more than three countries in a room, while others had little collaboration between nations, keeping to themselves and addressing their own nation's respective problem.

Some nations focused on tackling education to encourage hypothetical professionals to get an education in their native country, while other nations focused on general infrastructure and funding for programs that would create a sentiment

## SHINING SPOTLIGHT TO REMEMBER

## Malden Hosts Class of 2026 Senior Spotlight



The Senior Spotlight Cast (Left to right) Hannah Agbonogieva, Matt Jason Chan, Ismail Elbahlawan, Editor-in-Chief of Web and Mobile Apps for the Blue and Gold, Jacob Fuentes, Moisha Howse, Nicholas Li, Leica Naceus and David Parada. CHOUAIB SAIDI

Delina Yohannes  
Editor-in-Chief of Web  
and Mobile

On May 8th, seniors Hannah Agbonogieva, Matt Jason Chan, Ismail Elbahlawan, Moisha Howse, Nicholas Li, David Parada, Anas Tiahi, Leica Naceus, and Editor-in-Chief of Web and Mobile Apps for the Blue and Gold, Jacob Fuentes, put on a night to remember in the first Senior Spotlight show in over five years. Senior hosts Billy Gavin and Gino Spadafora, and "MC" James Valente helped organize a night full of applause and laughs for the community of Malden High School.

The night began with humorous remarks from Valente that set the scene for the rest of night, while also showing gratitude for all attendees who made the tradition possible once again. Before the performances kicked off, Valente assured that everyone was informed of the rules and circumstances of each act, highlighting to the audience that every act was essentially a surprise as "we know what event happens after this, but we don't know what's going to happen when that event is on stage," stated Valente.

Upon the beginning of the first act, all the participants were called to the stage, and they performed an iconic dance performed by the Malden High School Cheer team titled, "Jump on It." The crowd went ecstatic, and they were even more excited for the upcoming mysterious performances. Hannah Agbonogieva, escorted by senior Sorin Mamouzette, kicked off the night with a display of her impressive talent and passion for design, which she demonstrated with three fellow Malden High School seniors, Aaliyah Lopes-Teixeira, Sorin Mamouzette, (last senior), who served as her models for her hand-made knitted outfits that stunned every audience member.

Matt Jason Chen, escorted by a senior, followed with a beautiful reaction of Bruno Mars's song "Die with a Smile." Chen's dances were accompanied by Thalia, who played the electric guitar beautifully. Chan is a member of play-pro and the choir; he is someone who is very familiar with the MHS Auditorium due to all his performances. He found the Senior Spotlight emotional for him as it was one of his last performances at the school. Near the end, he dramatically throws a flower for the last time to symbolize how his time making an impact on MHS performances is nearing its end.

Following Chan was Ismail Elbahlawan, escorted by Lead Reporter for the Blue and Gold Haset Tesfaw, who Valente introduced as "overqualified" in reference to his specific act. Elbahlawan's act was giving the audience a course on self-defense. Elbahlawan demonstrated his act by utilizing hosts Spadafora, Gavin, and Valente as potential threats, showing the audience what to do in case of an emergency or if someone is trying to harm you. Though it was demonstrated through a community, the act brought tons of laughs among the crowd. Sideline participants Johnny Mei and Evan Ruan participated in the act by essentially jumping him towards the end to challenge the validity of Valente's statement of Elbahlawan's "strength" while also maintaining the comedic environment. "I was really stressed during the whole thing because whenever I got my

name called on, I had to go. But honestly, that also could have just added to the thrill of it, so I'm not really sure," Mei explained upon reflecting on his crucial role as a sideline actor.

The night carried on with beautiful performances back-to-back, including Fuentes's singing with beautiful piano work, Moisha's beautiful song performance accompanied by her stage presence and execution that provided a lot of audience interaction through her body language, and Li's demonstration of echolocation and super hearing which sparked a lot of laughter among the audience as he chased crew members around the stage with a go-noodle in hand in attempt to hit one of them and prove his echolocation, all while blindfolded.

Following that was a memory performance by Leica Naceus, in which she presented her skills of recollection by being able to spell various words backwards on a giant whiteboard for the audience to see.

"If a teacher says do it, do it. Because, like, that's really why I did it, and I didn't know I would have this much fun, this much experience, matter of fact, when? Like, you never know what will happen," Naceus remarked.

Parada was not a let-down either, as he sparked the audience's attention by wearing singer Michael Jackson's signature glove as well as remarkable dance moves to hook the audience.

"It was a very fun experience," Parada said. He said he didn't intend on participating, but his teacher, Mr. Valente suggested so. "I was very nervous to do it, but when I actually got on stage and I practiced for a little bit, it was very fun," he added.

Tiahi's act and task was to eat as many pizza slices in a minute as he could. Through his entertaining adversity, he managed to make the audience laugh at his attempts to eat a whole box of pizza, in which he ultimately failed, but succeeded in getting the audience roaring in laughter for the entirety of his act.

The night concluded when Mr. Valente turned it over to the judges, Mayor Gary Christenson, Barbara Scibelli, Jeanne Marquado, Michaela Ilebode and Michael Jackson, all MHS staff members and Malden representatives.

The judges voted Parada as a 3rd place winner with his impeccable Michael Jackson dance moves, in which he received a piece of MHS clothing, Jacob Fuentes as a 2nd place winner with his eloquent pianist and vocal skills and received a Pisa Pizza gift card worth \$50, and Leica Naceus as a 1st place winner, as well as the recipient of Red Sox tickets!

"It felt amazing. Like, literally, like to win anything in general, you feel like, hey, yeah, you did that." Naceus concluded.

The night turned out to be like no other; the 2026 Maldonian class coordinated this event without any preparation, highlighting how authenticity played a pivotal role in this beautiful, inclusive performance. Tune in next year to see the 2027 Maldonian class coordinate Senior Spotlight once again to show how a tight-knit community can coalesce and make what's supposed to be a single shining light into many in one night.

to stay in their country from a young age.

All in all, this was an opportunity for students all over the state to experience what it's like to collaborate with people on a collective issue that is often overlooked while learning what it is like to be in a "college environment" that "felt more professional," according to junior Frankie Marengi, who represented Mozambique with junior Maya Pedraza-Alexander in conference room seven.

Conference rooms ended with a "motion to adjourn", officially leaving the conference a little past 3:00 pm. Schools gathered in Wentworth Hall to thank students for the overwhelming participation and to announce awards.

Students from Malden signing up for the field trip were made aware that there would be an award ceremony at the end. Three nations from each conference room were called if they received any of the following rewards: Best Position Paper, Best Negotiator, and Best Delegate(s).

From Malden, junior Jason Dutaille and senior Nour Jaayer took home the Best Delegates award for their impeccable performance as two dedicated and excited students who gave their all in combating Brain Drain while also representing Mozambique. Dutaille thanks his success to his "faith in Nour, without a doubt. Not to mention, I trust Mr. Scheer's judgement—if he says Nour makes a solid partner—it's probably true." Dutaille continued by expressing that "it's important that you push yourself and accept challenges when they arise," explaining that "that's part of the reason I accepted my invitation in the first place."

Jaayer, being a senior who was admitted into Northeastern a few months prior, felt that it was "cool to actually see the lecture halls and envision herself walking through parts of the new parts of the campus. She felt prepared and excited, much like Dutaille, as she has participated in conferences before.

The "Best Negotiators" award went to juniors Annyah Ahzar and Manager Editor for The Blue and Gold, Chelmie Hyppolite, for representing Italy in a balance between their desire to be heard for their specific issue pertaining to Brain Drain, while allowing themselves to be put down as either signatories or voters on two different resolutions in their conference room.

The day ended in significant success for Malden High students, where their voices were echoed throughout conference rooms that gave a greater sense of confidence and public speaking ability within them. Many students agreed that they would return if they were to be invited back again.

# CELEBRATING SENIORS BEFORE STATES GAME



Malden Boys' Volleyball posing for a group picture with friends. FATIMA HUSAIN

Fatima Husain  
Head Copy Editor

Israa Malhouni  
Head Copy Editor

As the school year comes to an end, Malden High's Boys' Volleyball team bade farewell to their senior varsity players on Friday, May 22, during senior night against St. John's Preparatory School. Despite strong and strategic efforts, the Tornados lost 3-0.

Before the game started, Coach Dan Jurkowski stepped onto the gym floor to reminisce on the time spent with his senior members, sharing heartfelt memories and praising the hard work put in over the years. A total of ten seniors were celebrated: #3 Ethan Nguyen, #5 Nick Li, #7 Ethan Yang, #8 Oscar Luc, #9 Joseph Isles, #10 Israel Thien-go Souza, #12 Adrian Lee, #14 Gray Chen, #16 Matthew Ren, and #18 Lynkolnn Silva.

Between each tribute,

families and friends gathered with their respective seniors for a quick photo session, holding flowers, gifts, and signs in support of the player.

Shifting from the ceremony into the first set, St. John's gained the first point as Malden hit the ball out of bounds. The Eagles maintained this lead throughout the set by constant blocks and earning an advantage with the Tornados' hits repeatedly landing outside of the court. However, Malden showed strength in its defense as it effortlessly received tips and spikes, with Chen and Silva diving multiple times to keep the ball off the ground.

"All of our players have different skill sets they bring to the table, and with close friendships between the group of boys this year, the chemistry was great," Luc remarked.

The scores continued to be close in range until 8-6, after which Malden's struggle became evident.

Lee's hit was blocked, and soon after, Yang and Silva dived to receive a low serve but failed, changing the score to 11-7.

At 13-7, both teams took a strategic timeout, after which, Malden earned the next four points. In a long rally, starting with Luc serving, the ball went back and forth four times, during which Lee performed an incredible dive, eventually bringing the score to 13-9.

Despite developing a foothold, the gap between

the scores widened, concluding the first set in the Eagles' favor at 25-16. The second set was the most intense portion of the night, with both teams remaining neck-to-neck, making it hard to predict who would take the win. Once again, the set began with St. John's in the lead. Soon, the teams tied 3-3 as mistakes were made on both sides. Junior #22 Demin Han set several balls to the outside hitters, aiding in maintaining close scores.

Similar to the last set, Malden continuously de-

livered hits and serves out of bounds, costing them heavily. In spite of the setbacks, the Tornados' energy remained high with teammates high-fiving each other after each rally, whether it was successful or not. The competitiveness between the two teams resulted in a tie, causing the set to continue. The second set also ended in the Eagles' favor at 28-26.

St. John's opened the final set of the night, and while Malden remained

*Continued on page 16*



Coach Dan Jurkowski delivering a speech to honor his senior varsity members. FATIMA HUSAIN

# FLAG FOOTBALL TO MALDEN HIGH SCHOOL



Malden Tornados first flag football game. Photo submitted by Christopher Mastrangelo

Harmonie Ortiz, the reporter of this article, also participates on the Malden High Flag Football team.

Harmonie Ortiz  
Reporter

Pop! The flag from your belt comes off with a swift snatch from the defender. The referee blows his whistle to signal the fourth and last down. Players switch sides from defense to offense and take their spots. This marks the start to a flag football game.

Flag football is an up-

and-coming sport that allows you to have the fun of football with more regulations. Unlike regular football where those on defense tackles the person with the ball, flag football players have two flags on their hips where the defenders aim to take one.

In 1940, flag football became recognized. During WWII, many

soldiers missed home and made an alternative for playing football for a more homely feeling. They stuffed rags in their pockets and ran around with a football. This inspired many women in the workspace during this time and spread throughout the country to create a fun and safe activity.

This sport has now been brought to Mal-

den High School. It's seen as "one of the fastest growing sports" for girls, according to coach Danny Sullivan. With this becoming a new sport in many colleges, it offers many chances for a scholarship in playing flag for D1 colleges. Flag football could create scholarship opportunities for students with college aspirations. This event will also be integrated as an Olympic sport in the Summer of 2028.

The fast rising of flag football has enabled Sullivan, the Athletics Director Charlie Conefrey, and the Recreation Center Director Joe Levine to bring this from a recreational sport, to a sport that you can also partake in at a high school level. Sullivan expresses how he has seen many girls feel "a sense of belonging."

"I'm filled with excitement and joy knowing that there's a new sport for girls to be able to play," said junior Ava Lacasse.

With many excited to

join flag football, there is also a worry of the number of people who will participate. The late addition of this to school activities have had problems struggling to pick between the sport they're familiar with, or to partake in the spring or join flag football. To fix this issue, coach Sullivan scheduled practices to be on Saturdays and Sundays from 10:30-12 p.m. in hopes of making it accessible for those who participate in other sports.

Flag football has contributed to the wide diversity of sports at Malden High School. On April 7th, 2026, Sullivan made history, producing the first flag football team to play a game.

Flag football is a new sport for all and brings new experiences. You may even have fun. The introduction of new sports makes the future of Malden Tornados and the Malden flag football team is helping build history this year.

With many excited to

## Crew Rows towards Victory

Kyle Dang  
Head Copy Editor

This year, Malden's Crew team began with the utmost hope and wishes for the upcoming season. However, they began facing difficulties with their team's size, which is a 5-person minimum requirement in order to face off against other high schools. If this minimum is not met, the team would face dissolution.

After the departure of alum and former Editor-in-Chief of The Blue and Gold Mack Keating and senior Audrey Nguyen, the team found themselves in a finicky position with a team of three. In the end, they would recruit junior Krystalyn Vo and sophomore Janice Chen to make the team whole. This year, Vo replaced junior Yawen Zuo as coxswain, taking on the position to direct the team, while Chen would join the rest of the team on the shell, which is the type of boat used in the sport.

Vo explained how, as coxswain, she had to learn to navigate the team on the water and stay confident, putting faith in her "thoughts and intuition."

Having been on the team for three years, Zuo explained how a lack of members put the team at a weird balance, as their shell needed four rowers minimum, and anyone missing would put the team at incredible risk. "We need more people on the team; we are trying to rebuild the team," said Zuo.

However, they met the 5-person quota this season, consisting of senior Evan Ruan, juniors Atticus Smith, Vo, Zuo, and sophomore Chen, which allowed the team to formally compete in their races.

This year, the team utilized its new rowing facility and practiced daily, whether it was after school or during spring break. It acclimated the team's novices to the environment and also trained returning members, which proved successful in their races.

In total, the team faced two official matches, with the first being the Mayor's Cup Invitational, which took place at Tufts William A Shoemaker Boathouse at the Mystic/Malden River on May 3. The meet consisted of two races: the first against Westford Academy at 2:20 pm, and the next against Megunticook of Maine at 3:48 pm. Malden won both races, winning 07:00.4 to 08:15.9 against Westford, and 06:47.4 to 06:51.9 against Megunticook, with the team collectively winning a bronze medal.

Zuo congratulated the team's efforts in their

*Continued on page 16*

## Softball Senior Night

Senior Pitcher Hailey Seeley mid-motion while throwing the softball.  
KYLE DANG

Kyle Dang  
Head Copy Editor

On May 22, it was the Malden's Softball Team, Kriggy's Crew's senior night, celebrating and commending the seniors for their work, whether they were returning or new teammates; all seniors had a moment of celebration.

The afternoon was full of joy and laughter, which senior Anna Chen described as "quite exhilarating" as it was filled with endearment.

Before playing Northeast Metro Tech Vocational High School (NEMT), a ceremony took place at 3:50, honoring senior captains Fiona Youmell and Haylee Seeley, Nour Jaayfer, Sania Chen, and Anna Chen, who were handed roses by the underclassmen.

Seeley reflected on her time as part of the team and how earning wins against Somerville and Lynn English showed their improvement and accomplishments, which Anna Chen agreed on, as their victory in Somerville was one of her highlighted moments throughout the season.

The game and first inning began at 4:00 pm with Malden fielding, and Seeley pitching first. The first round concluded with NEMT in the lead with a score of 3-0.

Malden then switched sides to bat; however, earned no points.

As the second inning began, Malden played defensively to prevent their opponent from scoring. NEMT points skyrocketed, as they rose to 10-0, before switching. Malden, trying to close the gap, attempted to play offensively, but made no change to the score.

Luckily, the third inning would halt NEMT's points, as their batting time only gained them two points, leaving them at 12-0. With Malden back on the field, they made progress, with sophomore and Blue and Gold reporter Harmonie Ortiz and senior Sania Chen earning the team's first two points, concluding the inning at 12-2.

In the fourth inning, much like the previous inning, both teams only

## BOYS' LACROSSE FIGHT OVERTIME LOSS TO REVERE



Gabriela Parini Cordova  
Editor-in-Chief of Print  
and Social Media

From left to right: Assistant Coach Joshua Andrews, seniors Salah Bouam, Caden Toomey, Jonathan Ventura, Kenny Turcios Melgar, Paolo Lenares, Ismail Elbahlawan, and Coach Jonathan Copithorne. FARRIS QRANFAL

been playing as and went over some game plans.

Moving into the second quarter Malden continued to hold their ground through strategic defensive plays, checking, and boxing out their opponents when the ball was down. Revere was able to hold possession for most of the two quarters, but could not find an opening against Malden's defense. Even when Revere got a shot, senior goalie Paolo Lenares was able to save and block every shot whipped at him by their offense.

The game remained 1-0 in favor of Malden until half time with both teams fighting as hard as possible to get the ball in the net. During the half time break, players from both teams were able to take a break after the constant back and forth they faced. They also used this time to motivate their players to keep pushing hard and not give up no matter what the score was.

The third quarter then began and the tension could be felt as both teams stepped back on the field and into their positions. This quarter was fierce, with Revere making the first shot on Malden's goal, but Lenares was able to make the save and flip possession back onto Malden. This then led to Malden's second goal upping the score to 2-0 with only seven minutes left in the quarter.

Revere only used this goal as fuel as they scored their first goal 24 seconds after Malden's second goal of the game changing the score to 2-1 still in favor of Malden. Even with this goal, the Tornadoes did not let it get into their head and kept a strong attitude throughout the rest of the quarter. Sophomore Yahya Errafay resembled the team's dedication as he made his

first goal ever with only a minute and a half left in the quarter upping the score to 3-1 in favor of Malden.

With only 17 seconds left in the third quarter, Path ripped a shot at the net and scored Malden their fourth goal for the game, upping the score to 4-1. The third quarter ended and as the Tornadoes came together, the determination they stepped on the field with was still strong throughout the team. They had a huge lead going into the last quarter, but were reminded by both Copithorne and Andrews to keep playing hard and continue to have "everybody pulling in the same direction," explained Copithorne.

The Patriots did not let this lead stop them as the fourth quarter began and the energy on the field shifted. Revere was able to score three goals within the last quarter of the game and tied up the score. Players were whipping shots in hopes of getting another point for their team, but the game went into a four-minute overtime with a 4-4 score.

This tie was unexpected for the whole team as Path described how he was "at a loss for words because going into the 4th quarter we were all sure it was going to be a win for us." Copithorne also saw the shock felt by the team and added that "they responded with confidence. I don't think at any point the team thought that they were going to lose."

Toomey reiterated that sentiment, remaining certain in the team's abilities going into overtime "that we were the better team and just needed to play how we did in the first half." Although some players felt "worried when we went into overtime, but I was ready to try my hardest and try

and win," explained Errafay.

As the teams reconvened before overtime began, motivation was still high on both sides of the field. They had both fought hard to get to this point and neither of the teams were ready to give up. The two-minute break they received going into half time gave the Tornadoes a chance to recharge their energy and set their sights on the ball to get this last win of the season. "I just wanted to do everything to win. It was a hard and gritty game and in moments like that the best thing to do is not think, just play," junior and captain Dante Bell stated.

Overtime began and both teams exploded for the ball after the draw. Within the first 35 seconds, Revere was able to score a goal, taking home the win and leaving Malden defeated after their strong start. "I can't say I was frustrated when we walked away with the loss, I know that we played as good as we could've and while the outcome was disappointing, Revere just simply beat us," explained Toomey. Despite the loss, the Tornadoes believe "this game will be a memory for everyone on the team and one to remember for when we play Revere again next year," Path said.

"From the whistle, the whole team was invested...that's the only time this year that I've seen everybody pulling together. So there's not one specific moment. But at the end of the game, No one was dancing off the field. Everyone was hurt by the loss and pulled together even on the way to the bus. There was nobody pointing fingers at anybody.

It was losing as a team, getting

their confidence," "never give up," and "learn to love the game" as she had.

Junior Yasmina Goucem batting.  
KYLE DANG

beat as a team," Copithorne remarked.

The Tornadoes took this loss to reflect on the game and their performance throughout as a team. "Paolo had a great game and was really starting to become a great goalie and leader on the team." Bell mentioned. Toomey added, "When the team felt down, Paolo would come out with an amazing save to keep us in the game."

Copithorne reflected on the players performances and mentioned that "Dante is always a standout leader...he just always has been. Chance Path made a lot of plays that went under the radar. Of course, he scored a goal, but he made a few plays that kept possession on our side that really could have turned the game in another direction, but he kept the momentum."

In general, the team agreed they played their hardest throughout the entirety of the game and were able to play with their hearts on the field. "That was the most we played like a team all year. Even in the win against Revere, we didn't play as well together as we did that game," explained Copithorne.

Toomey believes this game revealed that even though a team "has a lot of new players, it doesn't mean they'll lack effort. We didn't have much skill due to how few returners we had although we almost won the game just from effort alone."

"I think it showed how we can pull through in adversity and come together as a team. It was a heartbreaking loss but in the end it brought us together," concluded Bell.



# LOVE ALL: GIRLS' TENNIS SENIOR NIGHT



From left to right: collage of seniors Len Nie, Gianna Snow, and Captain Jessica Chen in action during their Senior Night matches. VICTORIA DOMICIANO and YEN NGUYEN

Victoria Domiciano  
Lead Reporter

On May 13, the Malden High School Girls' Tennis team celebrated their annual Senior Night with a competitive performance against the Medford girls, falling in a close 3-2 loss at Amerige Park courts.

Before the first serve were delivered, seniors on the Malden team were honored by their families, coaches, and teammates, who presented them with

flowers, custom posters, and gift baskets to recognize their years of dedication, leadership, and contribution to the tennis team culture. Over their tenure, this senior class helped maintain Malden's reputation as a Greater Boston League powerhouse, acting as mentors to a rising roster of underclassmen.

Once the game began, the focus shifted to a classic GBL rivalry. Medford proved to be highly determined opponents, forcing

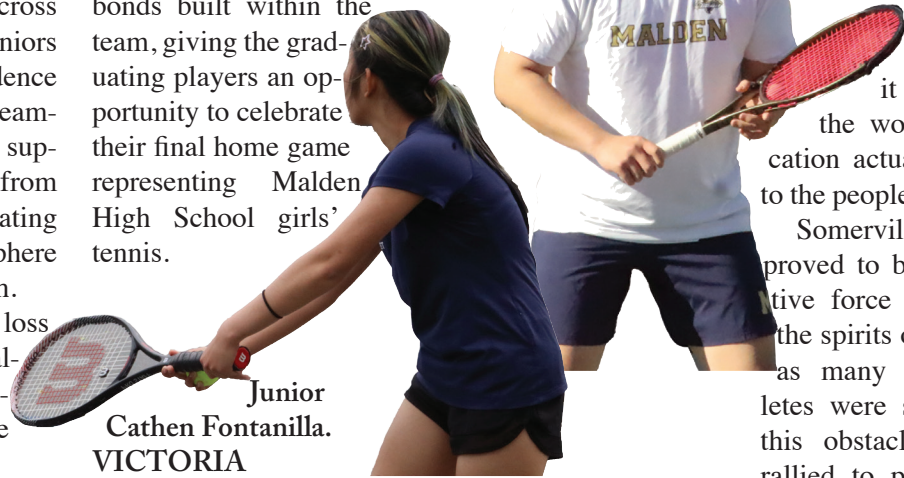
Malden into deep rallies and multiple games going to deuce.

Despite the final score, Malden delivered strong performances across the courts. The seniors played with confidence and intensity, while teammates continuously supported one another from behind the fence, creating an energetic atmosphere throughout the match.

The narrow 3-2 loss result reflected Malden's effort and determination, while

Medford ultimately secured the win. Senior night was about more than just the score, but rather to highlight the bonds built within the team, giving the graduating players an opportunity to celebrate their final home game representing Malden High School girls' tennis.

Junior Shaoqin Zhang.  
ISRAA MALHOUNI



Junior Catherin Fontanilla.  
VICTORIA DOMICIANO

# Boys' Tennis Farewell

Alexia Maciel Lima  
Managing Editor

In honor of a successful season and the soon to be graduating seniors, the Varsity Boys' Tennis team hosted a Senior Night celebration on March 15th as they played against Somerville High School in one of their last meets of the year.

Coach John Frigo began to coach the team this year and yet noted how the game "felt really special" after seeing the two seniors on the team, Captain Kwan Ho and Kenny Wong, "being leaders" throughout the season and having a night dedicated to their efforts.

Ho described the night as "meaningful and emotional. Being recognized by my teammates made me feel appreciated for all the time and effort I've put in. It's something I'll remember because it shows that the work and dedication actually mattered to the people around me."

Somerville High proved to be a competitive force weighing on the spirits of the players as many Malden athletes were sick. Despite this obstacle, the team rallied to put their best into each of their matches. "Although me and my partner lost our match, we didn't go down without a fight. There were times when we were ahead by 2 or 3 games, but they just caught up in the end. In the end, it was a fun game to play," Wong shared.

Ho had a close match against the top singles player from Somerville the first time they played earlier in the season, making this rematch highly anticipated. While Frigo described that the match "didn't go quite as well as he had hoped," Ho reiterated that the game "wasn't just about performance, but also about representing everything I've worked for over the years."

Although the game resulted in a loss, the team did not let the outcome put a damper on their season which resulted in an overall record of 11-3, 9-1 in the GBL. The team went on to compete against Attleboro in the preliminary round of the MIAA Division 1 Boys' Tennis State Tournament before officially ending their season.

Leaving a "tremendous influence on our team" as Frigo exclaimed, this year's seniors led with responsibility and compassion.

In his last words of advice to his teammates, Ho wished that the "team continues to stay close and support each other the way we always have and they continue building each other up and keeping the team culture strong."

# GIRLS' LACROSSE SENIORS SAY GOODBYE



From left to right: Midfielder Sydney Gordon, defender Abigaëlle Leconte, Editor-in-Chief of Print and Social Media and defender Gabriela Parini Cordova, and Lead Reporter and defender Haset Tesfaw pose for their senior photo. JACOB FUENTES

Anna Bui  
Head Copy Editor

On May 5, Malden High School's Girls' lacrosse team celebrated a memorable senior night, honoring its graduating players before stepping on the field to go head-to-head against the Somerville Highlanders.

This year, the team highlighted their four seniors: Midfielder Sydney Gordon, defender Abigaëlle Leconte, defender and Editor-in-Chief of Print and Social Media Gabriela Parini Cordova, and defender and Lead Reporter Haset Tesfaw.

Prior to the ceremony, Head Coach Devon Pattershall focused on ensuring the night would be perfect for the girls. She spent a day "getting their

senior gifts wrapped up, making bouquets," and running around to ensure she had all the necessary decorations to make the seniors feel appreciated.

The underclassmen players shared a similar sentiment of wanting a perfect celebration for their seniors. Junior Amelia Berliner expressed how she was "focused on making sure that all the senior decorations would be set up, and well done" to ensure the seniors were "able to experience a high quality senior night."

Although the girls were enthusiastic about the ceremony, players had a couple worries about the game itself. Berliner was aware that the team would have a larger crowd than usual due to the special occasion,

so tensions were high when competing against a tough competitor like Somerville.

Despite putting their all into their performance, the game ultimately ended in a 13-1 win for Somerville. This did not ruin the night's contentment as most of the girls, like Leconte, were "there to have fun" and do their best, no matter the outcome. "It's not always about winning, but about building a stronger bond through the shared struggle," Leconte continued.

With the amount of dedication the team has put into the night, it is no doubt that the team greatly treasures the seniors and everything they have contributed to the team. "The seniors have been a really positive influence

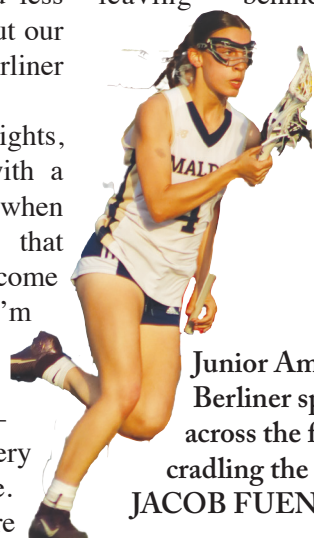
on the team. I am going to miss their little comments, jokes, and energy they bring each day," Pattershall shared.

"I think the seniors really contributed to our team environment and if I play next year, I'm sure the team will feel more separated and less like a family without our seniors there," Berliner added.

Like all senior nights, the game ended with a bittersweet feeling when the realization hit that the season will come to an end soon. "I'm going to miss the team's resilient, easygoing, and positive spirit after every game," said Leconte.

Junior Nyla Pierre believes that "losing a few key players" will

cause the team to struggle in the future, especially since they were "versatile players and could play in all positions." However, Pattershall believes this will give more players the opportunity to "step up and fill in" the empty shoes the seniors are leaving behind.



Junior Amelia Berliner sprints across the field cradling the ball. JACOB FUENTES

maldenblueandgold.com

# SENIOR CLASS WINS 54 GAMES IN 4 YEARS

"This senior group is the most successful in four years in Malden High History." Stephen Frecker



Sophomore Kendrick Noelsaint slides on the home base, earning a run. AUNDREA CIFUENTES

Harmonie Ortiz  
Reporter

On May 20th, Malden went head-to-head against Revere, claiming a 14-4 win. This was their last home game before the state championship. Malden took this game to recognize their seniors playing and dedicate the win to them.

In the beginning, both teams displayed good defense, but Malden took a lead through their offense. Starting Malden off, sophomore Nicholas D'Anna hit a double. This allowed Malden to have someone closer to scoring. With two people on the bases, sophomore Devin Milonopolous hit a triple, earning Malden

two runs. Followed by RBIs, or runs batted in, the first inning ended in a 5-1.

Senior pitcher Ryan McMahon pitched an amazing game and led Malden's defense. McMahon has struck out multiple batters, awarding him with "Malden High's record for most strikeouts," said baseball coach Steve Frecker.

During the third inning, the game started heating up after a runner advanced home from Revere, Frecker called in his infield, giving them inspiration to get out of the inning. Malden took these words and turned hits into outs.

The team came together and "shut down defense," said senior captain Gino Spadafora. They pulled in five more runs in the third inning with hits from senior captain Thomas "TJ" Lynch, freshman Arthur Sewell, and sophomores Joseph Ewing, Davante Layne, and Milonopolous. With each of them scoring, the third inning ended in a score of 12-2.

Revere's defense attempted to keep up with Malden, making good plays in the field, but catching up proved a challenge. Malden's defense continued to get better with second baseman Layne making mul-

tiples out at first.

Malden, "expecting to play longer," was happy to end their last home game with a 14-4 win.

After this win, Frecker and the rest of the team congratulated the seniors on a good season and celebrated by capturing memorable photos and moments.

Posters of Lynch, McMahon, Spadafora, Jackson Tourkantonis, Billy Gavin, Eudy Francisco, Johnny Mei, Keith Vien, and Dennis Liu hung on the fence. Many of the players hyped up the seniors, said their farewells, and wished the best for their futures.

After the champion-

ship, the seniors will go off to college. Many seniors left behind words for their team:

"Keep grinding, show up every day, respect the coaches because the only thing they want is for you to do better later on," said McMahon.

"Keep doing what they're doing. They're a really talented group. Show up every day and work hard," shared Spadafora.

"Keep your grades up and go to all your classes," Tourkantonis advised.

"Just keep working hard, and they'll have a great season next year," Lynch claimed.

## CONGRATULATIONS KHADIJAH DIAGNE



Khadijah lacing up her sneakers. Photo submitted by Vanessa Diniz.

D2 TRACK AND  
FIELD STATE  
CHAMPION IN  
100, 200, AND  
300 METER

CONGRATULATIONS  
TO THE  
FOLLOWING  
TEAMS FOR  
MAKING STATES:  
BOYS'  
VOLLEYBALL  
BASEBALL  
BOYS' TENNIS  
GIRLS' TENNIS

## Volleyball

*Continued from page 11*

tied for the first few points, the Eagles quickly established another early lead. Lee delivered a hit that St. John's sent the ball out of the court, tying the score at 1-1. The same thing occurred when Chen hit, bringing the set to 2-2.

Soon after, several of Malden's hits were blocked, or serves were sent into the net or out of bounds. In a close rally, Chen tipped, and junior #11 Joan Diaz Vargas received a hit; however, the ball was touched more than three times, changing the score to 7-3. Moreover, St. John's hits became harsher, causing the Tornadoes' to either shank (a pass that completely misses the target) or fail to receive them. The difference in score was doubled at 16-8, despite Chen earning a point from tipping.

Another long rally gained Malden a point with Silva's blocks and Yang and Vargas's hits. At 21-19, tensions were high because if Malden lost this set, there would be no chance at victory. The scores remained close, but sadly, St. John's won 25-21.

Coincidentally, the night happened to be Jurkowski's 41st birthday as well, so to surprise him, the Boys' and Girls' volleyball teams stepped onto court with a cake in hand and party hats on their heads.

Despite the game's disappointing ending, the departing seniors leave a memorable impact on their coaches and team members, cementing their role in Malden High's history.



Senior Ryan McMahon pitching a rapid ball to Revere. JOANA TAVARES VASSAO



Sophomore Devin Otero Milonopoulos preparing to hit Revere's pitch. JOANA TAVARES VASSAO

## Crew Team

*Continued from page 11*

first meet, claiming it was "definitely a highlight" of their season, as they had trained tremendously to

work towards that goal.

May 24 marked the team's final meet, which also acted as their state's championship, as deemed by the Massachusetts Public Schools Rowing Association Spring Championship. This race

had taken place at the Merrimack River, located at the University of Massachusetts Lowell Bellegarde Boathouse.

Typically, in a rowing race, teams are usually separated by gender: a boys' and a girls' team,

but due to a lack of participants on Malden's end, results were recorded towards a Boys' 2nd Varsity 4+ score, where 2nd refers to their division, and 4+ signifies the number of rowers, including the coxswain (Vo).

Their competitors were Medford and East Bay, where two races took place, consisting of a time trial and their official race. Their time trial race, deemed the Boys 2nd Varsity 4+ race, began at 8:05 am, where they timed at 06:44.642. Their final race, referred to as the Boys 2nd Varsity 4+ B Final, began at 3:07 pm, where they ultimately placed second at a time of 07:07.338, behind Medford at 06:05.218,

and ahead of East Bay at 07:47.654.

Although only having two official races, the team showed off their talent in a variety of unofficial races and scrimmages, such as the Mystic Mashup race on May 17th, against other local high schools.

Despite the adversities faced, such as transportation and weather, overall, the season proved successful for the team, with recruits greatly improving. Vo concluded that, as a sport, crew enables adaptation towards a new environment, like how she had to "grow quickly" alongside her team, trust her instincts, and "be open" to new faces.



From left to right: senior Evan Ruan, junior Atticus Smith, sophomore Janice Chen, junior Yawen Zuo, and junior Krystalyn Vo. Photo submitted by James Valente