Most of us didn't have school principals like Julia Clark Weidemann. The winner of Daemen's Distinguished Alumni Award for 1989 is principal of East Aurora's Parkdale Elementary School where she is as effervescent as ever. Not at all like the staid, unsmiling gents who ran many of the schools of our youth.

Carol Rockhill, school secretary at Parkdale, describes Judy as a much-loved principal. "Sometimes, kids will stop by just to give her a hug, and then they'll take off. Even if they're being disciplined, the children don't fear her. She is calm with them, and lets them know how strongly she believes that they can do better."

"The children in our community come to school with so much to offer," says Judy, countering the oft-held belief that children are empty vessels to be filled by educators. "I'm honored to be their principal."

This response is familiar to those who knew her as an undergraduate at Rosary Hill. Judy's smiling good nature lit up our classrooms and lives with amazing consistency. When a friend congratulated her on acceptance into an honor society in 1958, Judy downplayed the award, deftly turning the spotlight on her friend: "You were superb in the play. How did you ever memorize all those lines?"

Twenty-one years of credentials and accomplishments in teaching and administration preceded Judy's selection as Distinguished Alumna of 1989 at Daemen. "It was a very special honor," she says, "and one that came right after the Education Summit was held. I was so glad a teacher was chosen."

To Judy, principals are still teachers. "We should strive to be the best teacher we can be — for our staffs, our students, our communities."

Education Summit leaders lamented a crisis in education because most of today's best and brightest don't choose teaching. This was not the case with Judy.

A longtime member of Delta Kappa Gamma Honor Society and others, Judy earned two master's degrees (Education and Reading), and certification in School Administration and Supervision, after graduating from Rosary Hill in 1958 with a degree in English. She is an adjunct Professor of Education at Canisius College and is a doctoral candidate at the State University of New York at Buffalo (SUNYAB).

Alumni News

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Information and inquiries should be directed to David W. Cyr, Director of Development and Alumni Affairs, 4380 Main Street, Amherst, NY 14226 (716) 839-3600, ext. 212

Alumni Board
by Casey J. Ronas '88

The other day I was fondly recalling the years I spent attending Daemen. It had been a rough day at work, and I somewhat forlornly remembered all the fun times I'd enjoyed while in college — the parties, the concerts, the closeness with my classmates, the special events and all the extracurricular activities I had been involved with. It seemed everyone at Daemen belonged to some sort of organization, whether it was a club, an honor society, the Ascent, or a fraternity or sorority. If not they'd almost certainly attended an event sponsored by one.

Then it was back to the present. Maybe I had had a rough day, but I couldn't complain. I have an executive position, one I'm lucky to hold. Once again Daemen came to mind, because I hold this position because of the excellent education and ensuing magna cum laude degree I received at Daemen. I owe Daemen (in addition to my student loan), so I paid a visit to the alumni office during my lunch hour the following day. There I spoke with David Cyr, Director of Development and Alumni affairs at Daemen. Much to my surprise, in lieu of soliciting a contribution, David suggested I attend the next board meeting of the Alumni Association board of governors that Thursday evening.

I accepted with trepidation. Board of governors? I envisioned a club of stuffy old men, nestled in overstuffed leather chairs, in a dimly lit room congested with cigar smoke. Much to my delight, upon my arrival, I discovered quite the opposite. The atmosphere was far more reminiscent of the many clubs and extracurricular activities I had participated in while in college. I immediately spotted my old friend Jeanne Healy (class of '86) and fellow 1988 classmates, president-elect Dan Young and recording secretary Christine Gallo.

The remaining present board members quickly welcomed me aboard and made me feel right at home. Luckily they all preferred organizing and coordinating class reunions, sponsoring special events and workshops for alumni as well as the general public, throwing parties and just plain old fashioned fun to smoking cigars in leather chairs.

The alumni association also raises money to ensure future generations of deserving students will be able to receive the joys and benefits of a Daemen education.

I would strongly urge my fellow alumni to become involved with the alumni association. You'll be surprised at how much fun you'll have, while experiencing the warmth of ensuring the future of Daemen while preserving its traditions.

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Judy's husband, Rudy, and son, Michael, are proud of the accomplishments of their lady. Through the years, she chaired several professional conferences, acted as adviser to Channel 17 in the infancy of "Reading Rainbow", consulted with Scott Foresman on a Grade 3 textbook, and served as an active member and officer of several professional organizations.

"Many of the women of Rosary Hill were role models for me," says Judy. She fondly recalls the influence and example of women such as Sister Georgia Dunn and Sister Paula Fox, English instructors who fueled her love of language and set high standards of professionalism. "There were so many others.

Judy's mother-in-law, Ethel Weidemann, a charter member of the Rosary Hill Guild, worked hard to raise funds for the initial purchase of the college property.

"My Rosary Hill-Daemen connections have been strong," says the active alumna.

"I was proud of the college when Dr. Marshall spoke at a West Seneca Superintendent's Day several years ago. He made such a fine impression that he was invited back the following year, an unprecedented move."

Susan Ahearn, president of the East Aurora Elementary PTA, describes Judy as "an exceptionally warm and open individual who clearly loves what she is doing. You'll frequently see a child reading to Judy in her office, and she always has children's poems and pictures taped on her door. Parkdale is a very child-oriented school, a tribute to a wonderful staff and Judy's extremely positive direction."

Those of us in the Daemen community are delighted that the direction Judy received here has helped her warrant such well-deserved accolades from her colleagues... and her many children.

Congratulations to a most distinguished alumna!
DELIA McKENNA McAULIFFE, Class of ‘58

Delia McKenna McAuliffe received her BA in English from Rosary Hill in 1958. Dea has warm memories of small classes, close friendships, and the example of many Rosary Hill instructors. In Sr. Paula Fox she saw a blend of academic excellence and joyful love of people. “It was a thrill for my husband and me to take part in her recent 50th anniversary as a Franciscan,” says Dea. She and her classmates enjoyed reminiscing at the 1989 reunion where Dea was the MC.

Dea continued her education as she earned a Masters Degree and certification in School Administration and Supervision at Buffalo State College. She has enjoyed a teaching career in the Buffalo Public Schools. She began as a junior high teacher and then worked at Buffalo Traditional High School where she received funding for a state-of-the-art television studio, in which students produced daily TV news shows. An important part of the program was the involvement of hearing impaired students.

Dea is now working at the Education Opportunity Center, a satellite of the Buffalo Alternative School with students, ages 15-21, who have dropped out of school. She and her two colleagues provide tutorial instruction to 65 of Buffalo’s dropouts.

As a mini-career, free-lance writing has occupied Dea for the past ten years. She has written articles for Women’s World, Working Mother, religious magazines, newsletters and journals. She’s also written fiction for teens. Dea belongs to WRITE ASSOCIATES which sponsors an annual conference for aspiring writers. She is chairperson of this year’s conference, which will be held on the first Saturday in May at the Marriott and will feature the editor of Writer’s Market. For the past five years, at Canissius College, Dea has helped teachers improve their writing and teaching of writing. She also helps remove the mystique of publishing and provides staff development programs at area schools.

In addition to her teaching and writing careers, Dea has enjoyed raising “four of the best kids ever” and sharing her life with her husband Charlie, who also teaches in the Buffalo Schools.

DONNA BURNS GIBBONS, Class of ‘66

Donna Burns Gibbons received her B.S. in Medical Technology from Rosary Hill in 1966. She credits her senior year twelve-month experience at Millard Fillmore Hospital with giving her excellent preparation for the field. Although the seniors missed being on campus during that year, they profited from hospital classes and labs. After passing the boards (MiASC - Medical Technologist - American Society of Clinical Pathologists), Donna worked at Kenmore Mercy Hospital.

She married Bill Gibbons in ’67 and had a son Joe in February, ’68. A few months later, during the Pueblo crisis, Bill was sent to Viet Nam for a year with the Niagara Falls Air Guard. Later he returned to his job with New York Tel, and they were transferred to Albany where sons Jeff and Greg were born. Four years later they transferred again to Syracuse, where they continue to live in DeWitt. Donna worked at St. Joseph’s Hospital in Syracuse for a time before her daughters, Lisa and Sara, were born.

As the children were growing up, Donna was active with church, scouts and school projects. She took a job as a teacher’s aide and later teacher’s assistant and established a computer education program at Jamesville Elementary School. Donna previewed and purchased software, instructed teachers, and worked with students. She also recruited and trained parent volunteers to staff a computer lab in the school.

After five years in this position, Donna completed her career change by enrolling in Syracuse University full-time last year and earning her Masters in Elementary Education and certification N-6. She is now employed as a third grade teacher at Jamesville Elementary.

Last year’s graduate work made Donna the third college student in the family. Son Joe attended Siena College and Jeff was at Oswego State. Her son Greg is now at James Madison University.

In addition to education, the Gibbons family enjoys traveling. They visited London while Bill worked there for the phone company. Other fun trips were to California, Florida and Washington. To keep her energized for a busy life, Donna plays tennis and jogs.

JAMES J. McNEIL, Class of ‘68

James J. McNeil made history as the first male graduate of Rosary Hill College. Jim received his BFA in Theater Arts in 1968. Earlier Jim had earned a Food Service associate degree from Erie County Technical Institute and participated in many Rosary Hill plays. He was offered the opportunity to enroll as a full-time student and got a lot of experience directing, building sets, acting and singing. He studied voice with Julia Mahoney and formed a lasting friendship with Mary Herman (St. Angela’s secretary) and her husband Dick. He remembers Sr. Georgia as a “dynamic lady” who shared acting techniques gleaned from his brother, George Dunn, who was an actor and the inspiration for her religious name.

Jim’s early theater experiences included participating in summer programs in theater, doing lighting for Big Brother and the Holding Company and Janis Joplin, and performing in the Capitol Hill Shows (roasts of local politicians) at the Hilton.

Jim and his wife, Kathleen Moore, whom he married shortly before his celebrated graduation, now have five children and have also shared their home with foster children. They live not far from Daemen. Jim says his life has been lived in a three-mile radius of the college since graduation.

Within this limited area, Jim’s activities seem unlimited. He’s on the Board of Directors for the local Connie Mack Little League. He starred in Gilbert and Sullivan operettas at the Amherst Community Church for about five years and still sings with Amherst Men’s Glee Club. One of the things he’s proudest of is his fifteen years as director of the Cantor’s Choir at St. John the Baptist in Kenmore. Jim has been a tenor soloist with Westminster Presbyterian Church and still sings about a hundred weddings a year in the area.

Jim is pleased with the variety of educational experiences in his life and seems very comfortable with his trailblazing role making Rosary Hill a coed school.
I don't really know what one expects from college reunions. Perhaps for some, it's nostalgia, fond memories, hoping someone would remember you from an unattractive yearbook photo, or a less romantic desire to compare other aging bodies with your newly toned, tanned and renovated physique.

How encouraging it was for this 1974 graduate to see that others have not lost any of that exuberance that sometimes wanes as one views the world through more jaded eyes. Spurred on by delightful company and good food and drink, alumni chatted, caught up on "old times," and revered in nostalgia. Most of us, while we are in college (through no fault of our own, usually) become dreamers and thinkers. This dreaming and thinking often results from studying Shelley or Keats, Homer or Plato, or great treatises in history or
science. We all have been inspired, and some of us have allowed that inspiration to make a difference in our lives, and the lives of those we reach. (That may be said of Julia Clark Weidemann, who was the 1989 recipient of the Distinguished Alumni Award. Her determination, creativity and hard work has made her a wonderful example of what this college is all about.)

I think reunions are fun. They are also essential. They help us to see how far we have come, and how far we have to go. They show us that we are not much changed from those embarrassing photos of 15, 20 or 25 years ago. We still find pride in a place that gave us the impetus to become better people, when often mediocrity has become the norm.

Career Development Center Services

RESUME REFERRAL FILE: The Career Development Center maintains a file of resumes from our students and alumni who are seeking employment resources. If you are SEEKING EMPLOYMENT or SEEKING A CANDIDATE FOR EMPLOYMENT, please contact the Career Development Center, 839-3600, ext. 234 for assistance. It is important for you to take advantage of all opportunities; therefore, you are urged to submit your resume if you are in a job search, or call for resumes if you are searching for a candidate.

PLACEMENT SERVICES: The Career Development Center will assist you in your search for employment. Call Jeanne Healy, 839-3600, ext. 234 for an appointment for career counseling and job search assistance.

RESUME WRITING, COVER LETTER WRITING, JOB SEARCH TECHNIQUES: The Career Development Center will work with you on an individual basis and tailor your resume and cover letter to fit your needs.

MOCK INTERVIEW: Take advantage of our resources and schedule a mock interview, if you are apprehensive about going on an interview.

REFERENCE FILE—REMINDER: Update your reference file with current references. It lessens the stress of gathering letters of recommendation when the need arises.

Remember the Career Development Center offers many services including individual career counseling, job search workshops, special recruitment programs and other events which alumni may use and/or attend. There are no charges connected with these services, which are provided to alumni by the College.

We welcome any suggestions, comments or concerns you may have that can help us better serve students and alumni. Thank you for your support and continued association with the Career Development Center and Daemen College.
Daemen Faculty and Graduates Present Elderhostel Theme Week

What may be a faculty member’s dream — to see former students become gifted teachers in their own right — will become reality for Sister Jeanne Fie this summer. Sister Jeanne, a member of the College faculty since 1947, will teach alongside two former students in a Daemen Elderhostel this summer.

Sister Jeanne and the other faculty, Elaine Schwab Zilliox, ’64 and Joan Sticht Goldberg, ’65, will present a weeklong program called “The Language of Art” July 30 to August 3 as part of the College’s conference program. Although Mrs. Zilliox and Mrs. Sticht have been part of Daemen’s Elderhostel faculty since the program began in 1984, it was only in summer 1989 that the two helped persuade Sister Jeanne to become part of the unique educational experience.

Elderhostel is a week-long residential learning program open to anyone over the age of 60. No prior formal education is required. Elderhostel programs at Daemen involve about 45 participants, who study a variety of topics and learn about Buffalo and the Niagara Frontier.

The program in which Sister Jeanne and her two former students are teaching is a theme week on art. Sister Jeanne will present a course called “What Makes Art Great?”, which will review major periods in art history. Mrs. Zilliox, who has been a member of the Daemen art faculty and currently teaches at Cardinal O’Hara High School, will teach “From the Spoken Word to Calligraphy,” which will include instruction in Chancery script as well as an overview of visual expression from pictographs to calligraphy. Mrs. Goldberg’s course, “Storytelling: The Roots of Human Awareness,” will offer a look at familiar folk and fairy tales in a new light. Mrs. Goldberg is currently a faculty member with the Consortium of the Niagara Frontier and a working artist and storyteller.

Mrs. Goldberg and Mrs. Zilliox joined the original Elderhostel faculty at the urging of Sister Jeanne, who herself had been asked to participate.

She declined, and recommended her two former students instead. Both women have taught in Elderhostel each year. Joan Goldberg has taught in more Elderhostels than any other faculty member, and will also participate in the June Elderhostel week this year.

In June 1989, Sister Jeanne was invited to be an Elderhostel participant, which was her first direct experience with the program. She moved into Canavan Hall with the other hostlers, and participated in all of the program activities, which ranged from an early-morning exercise class to after-dinner entertainment. She sat in on classes during the other two Elderhostel weeks, and was asked to join the faculty for the 1990 program by Patricia Maloney, Daemen’s Conference Director.

For further information on Elderhostel, call Patricia Maloney at 839-3600, extension 253.

Teacher Recruitment Day

This year Teacher Recruitment Day will be held on April 23 & 24 at the Buffalo Convention Center. At least 150 employers from all over the country attend. These school districts are seeking teachers who will be available to begin their employment in September 1990. The candidates must be certified. For further information call the Career Development Center 839-3600, ext. 234 and an information packet will be mailed to you.

Daemen College Chairs Available

Daemen College is offering to alumni and friends two commemorative hardwood chairs.

The chairs consist of a Captain’s Chair and a Boston Rocker. Each have a black enamel finish with the seal of the college imprinted on the back.

Constricted of American hardwoods and carefully assembled, the chairs come with a 10-year warranty from the manufacturer.

This special project is being “Chairred” by Bonnie Szymoniak Cassidy, Class of 1978. The price of the chairs is $250. Please contact the Alumni Office for more details.
CLASS OF 1977
James Chase '77 and Susan McIntyre Chase '77 welcomed the newest addition to their family on July 30, 1989. Elizabeth Anne joins brothers and sisters Andy, 9, Katie, 6, Maureen, 4, and Christopher, 2, in their home in Turin, New York. Jim teaches Social Studies at Adirondack High School and Sue is now a full-time mom since "retiring" as supervisor of the Reference Laboratory at the Syracuse Regional Red Cross.

CLASS OF 1978
Mr. Randy K. Gerlach has been named administrator of the skilled nursing facility at the Erie County Medical Center. He previously was Vice President of Long-term Care at DeGraff Memorial Hospital, directed social service activities at the Odd Fellow and Rebakah Nursing Home and was a social worker in the Catholic Charities of Buffalo's Department of Services to the Aging.
Among his professional associations, he serves on the advisory boards of both the Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders Association and the Western New York Association of Homes and Services for the Aging. In the latter, he also serves on the Legislative/Regulation Committee, the Employee Assistance Program Task Force and is Chairperson of the Public Relations Committee. Most recently, he has served as Chairperson of the Advisory Board of the Odd Fellow and Rebecca Nursing Home. He and his family live in Kenmore.

CLASS OF 1981
Lisa Holden DeSimas and husband Steven are the proud parents of Matthew Thomas born in January, 1989. Lisa is working part-time at a local acute care hospital. They reside in Fairhaven, MA.

CLASS OF 1985


CLASS OF 1986
Barbara Jean Yaniec married Tom Murphy in August, 1989. Barb has received her Masters at the College of St. Rose. She is working as a Special Ed Teacher in Cold Springs, NY. Her husband is a medical student at NY Med at Valhalla, NY.

Mary Jo McPhail is Facility Director for Advanced Physical Rehab Center, in Stuart, Florida. Mary Jo recently married James Fuydal, a Prosthetist/Orthotist, practicing in Jupiter, Florida. Mary Jo and her husband live in Jupiter, Florida.

Social Work Related Career Fair
This year the Career Development Center and the Social Work Department of Daemen College joined forces and formed a consortium of local colleges to sponsor a Social Work Related Career Fair at Daemen. This fair was held on March 1st in Wick Social Room.

Class Notes
Let us hear from you!
Please send us your news and we will share it with your friends and classmates. We can use small black and white photos. You can also use the form to update your address.

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NEWS:
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Clip & mail to: Alumni Office, Daemen College, 4380 Main St., Amherst, NY 14226
Alumni Christmas Party


The Annual Children's Christmas Party sponsored by the Alumni Association was held on Sunday, December 3, 1989. The children (and adults) enjoyed holiday refreshments, Ding-A-Ling the Clown and Santa. Each family was asked to bring a new toy which was donated to Haven House and Friends of the Night People — over 50 gifts were collected during the party.

Silent Auction

The Second Annual Silent Auction was held at the Reunion on October 7, 1989. Over 50 items were auctioned to the highest written bids. $1,200 was raised and donated to the College to be used for faculty to further their education or training. Items ranged from original works of art to gift certificates to local restaurants.

The Alumni Association plans to continue this project. The next Silent Auction will be a part of the 1990 Reunion held on Saturday, October 6. If you have items to donate, please contact the Alumni Office.