New clubs being recognized at Daemen

by Michelle Smith

Tired of studying (or pretending to)? Looking for something fun to do?

Why don’t you check out one of the many clubs and organizations that Daemen has to offer?

Now is the perfect time to do so because the number and variety of clubs at Daemen are expanding.

Nine new clubs have been proposed in the past two years. Last year, the clubs AfterMath (a math club), Inter-Greek Association, and SOCA (Students of Caribbean Ancestry) were proposed. These clubs have drawn up and finalized bylaws, which have been approved by the Student Association (SA).

After approval by Dean Jackson, Associate Dean for Student Affairs, these clubs will attain full official recognition.

This year, Foreign Language Club, a Paintball Club, and a Swing Choir were proposed, they are in the process of organizing. There has also been talk of a Gay and Lesbian organization.

Chris Malik, Director of Student Activities, is pleased to see the formation of new clubs, as well as the rebirth of old ones that were previously inactive. He points out that clubs are very important to a school such as Daemen with a large commuter and adult-learning base; they are a way for non-resident students to become involved in campus life.

“I’ve always been interested in paintball. So instead of waiting for one [club] to form, I did it myself.”
-Shehzadali Ismaily

Clubs also influence prospective students. Dr. Kevin Telford, Professor of French at Daemen, said the new Foreign Language club was formed, in part, because of inquiries from prospective students at functions like Open House.

As interest grew and the Foreign Language program developed, the need for a club arose. Telford said that he hopes to keep the club about the students; he wants the initiative for all activities to come from students. The club has already organized a trip to Stratford, Ontario to see the play Tartuffe, and they will help out at the Chaucer Banquet sponsored by the English Club in the spring.

“I am encouraged by the interest so far,” said Telford.

While clubs like this combine academics and social activities, others are not affiliated with any department. Take the new paintball club formed by Shehzadali Ismaily. “I’ve always been interested in paintball,” Ismaily said. “So instead of waiting for one [club] to form, I did it myself.”

The paintball club’s bylaws are currently being reviewed by the SA. Once they are established and have received funding for equipment, the club will play Special Force Paintball, which takes regular paintball and combines it with military

More Information about the New Residence Halls

by Joelle Schelhaus

Daemen College will be getting new residence halls.

This is a very exciting time to the college and the students. However, as with every new project, there are questions about what exactly will be happening.

The new residence halls were just a proposal a year ago. Daemen proposed new dorms for the students’ benefit. No one thought the project would be implemented as quickly as it has been. The project took off because Daemen is trying to improve life on campus.

The construction will take place in three phases. The ten residence halls directly adjacent to Daemen will be torn down after this semester ends. Construction of three larger, apartment-style residence halls will begin in January. These three halls will have 192 bed spaces available. They are scheduled to open for the Fall 2001 semester.

As long as the first three buildings have been confirmed to be completed on time, the next phase will begin. The eight residence halls at the far end of Campus Drive (656 and 81 back) will be torn down and replaced by two more new residence halls. These are scheduled to be completed and open for the Spring 2002 semester.

The final phase will begin once those buildings have been completed. The five remaining Campus Drive apartments will be torn down. Two smaller, apartment-style residence halls will be built. All of the new residence halls are expected to be completed and open at the start of the Fall 2002 semester. The look of the campus will change. The new residence halls will be landscaped. Additional parking will be created. There will be an entrance from Campus Drive to Daemen.

The majority of the questions that have been raised by the Daemen community are actually about the new residence halls themselves. Resident students are eager to figure out what their new living space will be like.

The reason there are so many questions is because the project has progressed so quickly.

The Office of Residence Life was only brought into the project two to three months ago. In that time, they have had to concentrate their efforts on what will be happening in the spring.

New York State revises teacher certification laws

by Michelle Smith

Since 1996, New York State has been revising its teacher certification laws. The Board of Regents has approved many changes, and after February 2004, anyone wishing to teach in New York State must meet the new requirements.

This year, the Daemen College Education Department has altered its curriculum so that education majors will meet these new standards. According to Dr. Patrick Hartwick, professor of Education, the changes are designed to improve the professional competency of teachers and hold them more accountable for their work. For example, one significant change is that once a teacher has received professional certification, he must renew his teaching license every five years. This will force teachers to remain current in their profession. Hopefully, in turn, this will help more students pass learning standards.

Another change involves certification levels. What was previously elementary education is now divided into childhood education and early childhood education. Formerly, a person with a degree in elementary education was certified to teach preschool through sixth grade. Under the new program, a degree in childhood education will only cover grades one through six, and a degree in early childhood education will cover birth through second grade. Middle school and secondary education certification continue to cover grades five through eight and seven through twelve, respectively. However, secondary education is now called adolescent education.

Laura Piazza, a freshman childhood education major, will graduate in 2004; therefore, she belongs to the first class to be affected by these changes. She thinks that the changes are good in general, but she says “people hate that you can’t be certified from Kindergarten to Sixth Grade” since they must decide sooner in which area they wish to specialize.

Also, childhood education majors must have an area study, which means they have to take 30 additional credits in either English, Foreign Language, Math, Science, or Social Studies. As a result, their curriculum is more rigid than in the cont. on pg. 4, “Certification”

The atrocious parking situation at Daemen College.

See story on pg. 2.

“The people of Daemen have turned into vultures”
The people of Daemen have turned into vultures

by Darcy L. Smith

I have a class at 9:30 AM on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. On a normal day I arrive at Daemen around 9:10. I am 20 minutes early, yet I am ALWAYS late for my first class. Why? Part of it may be that I refuse to take the stairs and have to wait for the elevator. Part of it may be that I have to feed my vices (coffee...) before my class starts. The most likely answer, however, is that I can't find a parking spot.

Faculty, administrators, staff, students and visitors all suffer from the lack of parking availability on campus. We have all had to park in the far corners of the Business Building parking lot. We have all had to park on Main Street. We have all circled around the main lot between Wick and Duns Scotus in a vulture-like manner looking for that one car that is leaving so we can have their spot. Now, with the snow on the ground, things have gotten worse. THERE ARE NO PLACES TO PARK! After hours of deliberating possible solutions to this problem (yes, I have way too much time on my hands), I have come up with several solutions. They are as follows:

Don't let freshmen have cars

Despite the fact that every mobile freshman is now looking to kill me, I think that we should take away their cars. This is a common practice at colleges and universities around the country. It's not all that revolutionary. This will free up quite a few spots along Campus Drive and next to Canavan Hall. These spots could be better filled up by upper classmen (particularly a certain junior English and History/Government major I know) or faculty.

Make more parking spots

As much as I hate to say it, some of those trees and some of that grass can afford to be leveled in favor of pavement and parking. At this point, every tree-hugging environmentalist is going to want to kill me. I can, however, rationalize this suggestion. Think about it: every time we vulture around the parking lot looking for a spot, our cars release harmful chemicals into the environment. With the number of cars that do this EVERY DAY at Daemen, all the trees in Amherst probably couldn't produce enough oxygen to counteract the amount of chemicals emitted. If we level some of the trees and grass to make some new spots, we may even be helping the environment. Wouldn't that be great?

Promote carpooling or the use of public transportation

Sure, Daemen may have to dedicate a few of its wonderful and helpful security guards to monitor the entrances, but if they kept a registry of students who either carpooled or took the bus to school and offered those students some sort of incentive (say maybe some sort of tuition credit or monetary gain), more students may feel compelled to leave their cars at home. It's not that hard.

Create separate parking lots for the different ranks

Most other colleges have designated lots for commuters, faculty, residents and administrators. These are monitored to ensure that no one is parking in the wrong lot. Tickets are given to violators. Though this may not solve the problem of the availability of parking, at least the area we have to vulture would be defined and limited. We would no longer feel the urge to murder all the residents who park in the main lot (We can tell who you are. The snow on your car gives you away). We will no longer have to wait for our professors as they, too, look for a parking spot. We could even take it a step further. We could designate a lot for Seniors, Juniors and Sophomores (Freshmen don't get one. Their cars were already taken away from them). Upper classmen already look for reasons to skip class. I speak from experience. If you take away the "I had no place to park" excuse, you may even increase attendance.

Decrease the number of reserved/handicap spaces

Okay, I know that they probably can't reduce the number of handicap spaces. They can, however, spread them out a little more. It just contributes to my anger when there is no place to park and there is a whole row of empty handicap spots. I have even thought about how nice it would be if I broke my leg and could get, even if temporarily, access to one of those prime spots.

There are, however, a number of reserved spots. The ones near Rosary Hall particularly disturb me. Allegedly, they are reserved for the nuns that use or live on the campus. They should be open to general use. I am Catholic. I have nothing against nuns. I have a great-aunt and some friends who are nuns. But, just because they are nuns doesn't mean that their car deserves a spot over the rest of ours.

Okay, I guess that is all I can come up with. Until any of these suggestions become a reality, we are going to have to deal with things as they are. However, these conditions don't make it permissible for people to just stop in the middle of the parking lot and sit while they wait for a spot (yes, I am talking to you Wayne). Be courteous. Accept defeat when you lose your spot to someone quicker. Violence is not the answer. Besides, if you severely hurt someone, their car is just going to sit in the lot until either they are well enough to collect it, or it gets towed. Either way, it is taking up a parking spot.

Happy parking.

Letter to the editor

Dear Editors:

The front-page article "Persecution by the Student Body" in the October Ascent was certainly disturbing to me both professionally and personally. I applaud the efforts of our student affairs staff to provide diversity-related programming and activities and I commend our students, a majority I believe, who have shown their support for gay and lesbian students and their condemnation of harassment based on sexual orientation.

The Daemen College Student Code of Conduct, found in the Student Handbook, prohibits any form of "intimidation or harassment which has the intent or effect of preventing a person from performing his/her legitimate role at Daemen College. The College's policy on nondiscrimination (also found in the Handbook and the College Catalog) prohibits discrimination "on the basis of race, sex, age, religion, national origin, marital status, veteran status or disability."

In my capacity as the College's Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action Officer, I am responsible for ensuring compliance with the College's nondiscrimination policy and applicable federal and state laws. Any member of the campus community - student or employee, who believes he or she has been subjected to conduct which violates our nondiscrimination policy is strongly encouraged to contact me at campus phone 8301, DS room 102, or kboone@daemen.edu.

Thank you,
Kathleen C. Boone
Associate Dean of the College and EOAA Officer

Join the staff of your student newspaper!

The Ascent is in need of writers, photographers, your ideas

You may even receive 1 credit per semester, though not exceeding 3 credits total, for regular contribution to the Ascent.

For more information, please contact Darcy Smith phone 871-0506 e-mail dsmith@daemen.edu

Happy Holidays

from everyone on the staff of the Ascent.

Have a very happy and safe break.

Hope to see you all next semester!
The hallmark of discrimination has always been found in segregation. Today, though, segregation is not limited to the color of one’s skin. It extends to include one’s capabilities.

Being handicap is predominately a limitation of choice: such as the choice to enter a building or to park a vehicle. Daemen College attempts to follow guidelines, which are found within the American Handbook Accessibility Requirements of 1992, but the truth is many improvements can be made to make Daemen a more accessible learning environment.

Federal and New York State laws provide strict guidelines to ensure handicap accessibility in, or to a building of, public accommodation that has been altered or built after January 26, 1992, by Federal law, or after July 31, 1994, by state law. These guidelines, which are found within the American with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) and the New York State Human Rights Law of 1994, give specifications on handicap parking and handicap accessible entrances.

The recent construction of the Business Building and renovations to Rosary hall were required to conform with these laws and acts, but how well does Daemen College actually accommodate the needs of the disabled, specifically those persons who have impairments of mobility?

The newest and most modern construction on the Daemen campus is the Business Building. Handicap parking at this building is confined to the west side of the structure, in front of a door with no mechanical assistance. The, of course, is in violation of accessibility requirements, which state that handicap parking must be located with in 200 feet of a handicap accessible entrance (American National Standards). However, the question that must be raised is why are there no mechanical assistance at this door. It seems only practical to have a handicap entrance closest to handicap parking. This rule location of handicap parking in relation to handicap entrances is the main focus of this discussion, and the common sense, which dictates accessibility.

Rosary Hall, which underwent a drastic renovation no more then five years ago, also seems to have a disagreement of interests. Employee and visitor parking are located directly in front of the hall’s entrance. However, handicap parking is located at a distance from the handicap ramp and is on a sloping hill.

Again, why should people who need close and convenient parking be denied it? Handicap parking should be directly in front of Rosary Hall, not set off to the side merely for the convenience of employees.

The heart of Daemen may not be a new construction, or fall within the parameters of the ADA, but the Wick Center, nevertheless, should have handicap parking. Wick houses the cafeteria, snack bar, and many social events which are open to the public and Daemen community. There is no parking directly or closely located near the entrance to Wick. This makes it difficult for those in need of handicap parking to enjoy the events and primary functions that go on inside Wick Center.

Daemen as a whole teeters on the line of the law, by closely following requirements, but not exceeding them. If Daemen College wants to open its doors to the possible publicity of handicap accessibility and programs, it must go above and beyond the requirements. Where there is handicap parking the entrance should be mechanically assisted. Where there is a handicap accessible entrance there should be handicap parking. These ideas are not extravagant or exotic but common sense. Handicap parking should be close and convenient not merely a quota to arbitrarily fill.

Daemen College needs to shuffle around the parking layout on campus as well as update entrances for mechanical assistance.

Community Service: A Strong Daemen Tradition

by Dr. Martin J. Arisman

You may have noticed the red, yellow, and blue buffalo standing on the corner of the deck of the Wick Center. Or, "bussalo," I should say. "The Partridge Family Bussalo" was a member of the "Herd About Buffalo" project, an endeavor that captured the western New York community. This "herd" was a way to increase awareness of the vitally important service members of the western New York law enforcement community provide to everyone.

Each year, not only raises scholarship funds, but also serves to raise awareness of the vitally important service members of the western New York law enforcement community provide to everyone. Community service is one of the principles upon which Daemen College was founded. Each year, through the College Department of Community Service, more than 1,000 Daemen students participate in a community service activity. We believe that learning the importance, and value, of giving something back is one of the central tenets of responsible citizenship. And there are, literally, as many ways to make a contribution as there are ideas.

"Alternative Spring Break," begun just two years ago, is one example. It offers the opportunity to travel, have lots of fun, and test some abilities that are not necessary in a classroom environment. For four Daemen freshmen last spring, this included Capstraw Wilkins talked about the friendships she made - both in and out of class- and favorite professors, whom she credited with shaping her views on life and community service.

"Going to college then - it was the '60s - was a tumultuous time," she recalled. "There were all those changes in society, feminism and Vietnam. But I wouldn't trade it for anything. Rosary Hill prepared me for my life, and it affected me in very positive ways, especially community service, why it's important for each of us to give something back. Even if it takes a 'Herd' of buffalo. Remember, one person can really make a difference.
Daemen gets new professors

by Joelle Schelhaus and Laura Beth Witt

If you are in one of Daemen’s smaller departments, you probably have the same professors over and over. However, this is good in some respects (you get to know your professors well, you know what to expect on an exam...), it often becomes annoying. Slowly, but surely, that is starting to change.

Many of Daemen’s smaller programs have been adding new professors, and, in turn, new courses, new expertise, and, in turn, new blood. Some of you will have to take some of these new professors in the not-so-distant future. You deserve an introduction.

Meet four of our new professors: Professor Lisa Parshall, Dr. Karl Terryberry, Dr. Susan McClary and Adrienne Dykeman, a resident who is in her third year of a five-year program, said that she wasn’t happy with the situation as she understood it. She also said that room lottery should go by how long you have lived on campus.

Not all students are upset. Student Association President, Matt Hitchcock, a sophomore resident student, looks at the situation from a different perspective.

"It's fine," Hitchcock said. "I'm only going to be inconvenienced. Though much of the paperwork going through Chris Malik's student activities office. But he doesn't mind the additional planning and decision making. He says that the clubs are a part of the learning process; involvement in them creates leadership skills: "Ideally, that is what we like to see."
Advice God

The Advice God has decided to humble himself by helping us here at the Ascent out. This will be an ongoing column of helpful (or not so helpful) hints and insights into everyday campus life.

Dear Advice God,

My mother, God save her, has decided that she won’t let me move out of the house. What do I do?

-In Hell at Home

Dear Homely Hell,

First off, there are a few things that you have to keep in mind when considering such a move. One, do I have enough money to support myself? Two, am I seriously mature enough to take care of myself? Three, do I really care what the bitch tells me what to do? If you can’t stand living at home and dear old mom can’t see fit to give you the space you require, then move. What I’m saying is, weigh your options. Is your residential freedom worth severely pissing off your mom? You decide.

-A.G.

Dear Advice God,

I’m 24 and a PT student at Daemen. My girlfriend is threatening to break up with me if I don’t spend more time with her, but I have to study! Midterms will be coming fast. How do I tell her that school comes first and keep her around too?

-incompetent from PT

Dear Impotent from PT,

If there’s one thing I’ve discovered in life, it is this: “nothing is worth sacrificing your dreams and hopes over.” Your girlfriend sounds like she doesn’t really give a flying fuck about what you’re all about. If your career in PT is that important to you, find a girl who can understand the things that you have to do in life.

-A.G.

Dear Advice God,

What do I do if a professor propositions me?

-Don’t like it up the Bung-hole

Dear Bung-hole surfer,

A few extra credit points never hurt anyone.

-A.G.

Dear Advice God

I can’t afford to sleep eight hours a night. Are diet pills safer than cocaine?

-Falling asleep in class

Dear sleeping on the job,

I’ll tell you what — start with the coke as an appetizer, have a few diet pills as an entree, down some of as a side dish, wash it down with a bottle of Everclear, and I’ll bring over the horse tranquilizers for desert. It’ll be a grand old party. I’m strongly reminded of “Wizard of Oz” and the scarecrow. “If I only had a brain…”

-A.G.

Daemen Personals

Have a bone to pick? Need to get something off of your chest? The Daemen College Personals are here for you. Just fill out this form and drop it off at Wick Desk (make sure you tell them it’s for the Ascent) or email jh_18_99@yahoo.com. We’ll put it as many as we can!

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The early bird gets the worm, but the second mouse gets the cheese.

Support bacteria. It’s the only culture some people have.

Santa is jolly because he knows where all the bad girls live.

It takes many nails to build a crib, but one screw to fill it.

I hate this newspaper. It really sucks. Especially the personals.

General, the war is over. Reality misses you. It wants you to come back.

Joelle, resident council sucks ass. By the way, I hate seafood.

Red-barron, Get off your ass, and stop watching us walk by your office.

To Randy and Andy: We love you! “The Kate’s”

Security, Suck my ballsack. -students

Egor - You don’t know who you are, but I’ll ride it ride it any day -A-

Adrienne – You’re the coolest, but you know you can’t be as cool as me...-Krista

Hey Taylor - suck my penis. Love PT A

Hey Phil, Have fun in the bathroom? -BLUMP and the next of KIN

Pam - you’re a big Frank n Bean

I would like to send my love out to all the Katies on campus. -KJ

Michelle - Where are you ho? You better be doing OK. - Guess - Frank n Beans

P/s love Nixon

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A commitment to empowerment

by Renee Daniel
Associate professor
Department of Social Work & Sociology

Seneca Babcock, Seneca Babcock, the buzzword for many programs and departments on campus these days. What is it, where is it, what is going on, and why should the entire Daemen community be excited and involved?

Reason 1

Daemen College was founded with a vision and a conviction that the individual can make the difference in the world. Daemen believes that education must go beyond personal and career concerns and therefore students are encouraged to contribute to the common good through participation in various programs and departments that engage students in service learning as well as the nationally recognized community service program. The Social Work Program at Daemen actually epitomizes the vision of the college in that it prepares social and political activists who will intervene on behalf of diverse groups, the poor, the oppressed, and others at risk populations. Social work is defined as the professional activity of helping individuals, groups, or communities enhance or restore their capacity for social functioning and continuing societal conditions favorable to that goal. So when approached about helping out a specific program in a neighborhood the Social Work Program could only respond with a resounding YES.

Reason 2

In December, 1998, Pastor Brian Rotach of the Seneca Street Methodist Church, met with social work faculty to discuss the possibility of having students complete some of their volunteer hours, (social work majors spend 520 hours in service learning and internships) in the Seneca Babcock community. The Seneca Babcock community is physically defined by the 190 on the south and southeast, the old Nickleplate Railroad Yard (now Norfolk and Western) on the east and a smaller yard that used to belong to the Pennsylvania Railroad on the north. The community which is predominantly Irish, is littered three blocks wide and eight blocks long and isolated by the aforementioned boundaries. Most of the residents have lived in the community for many years and are committed to the survival of the place they call home. But residents could use some help with the literacy rate, high teen pregnancy rate, limited to no health services, substandard housing, drug abuse among the young and the adult population, school drop out rate, and homebound elderly. Dr. Daniel, the Dean of Social Work.

So in response to Pastor Rotach’s request, the Social Work Department decided to focus all of the departments volunteer efforts relative to social and political activism on behalf of this community, and to gradually engage other departments at Daemen to do the same.

Reason 3

So what can you get excited about and involved in? What began with a slow, quiet, entrance into the community in the Spring, 1999 has developed into a long term commitment to empowering a community to help itself. There are four community agencies in which students and faculty at Daemen are engaged in service learning; the Community Center, the Babcock Boys and Girls Club, Teen Haven, and the Seneca Street Methodist Church. The outcome of our involvement in the community will be the development of a community empowerment model that can be shared and applied with other communities throughout the city of Buffalo. To date students have engaged in numerous volunteer hours in relation to the following projects:

- **Spring/Fall 99 Community Needs Assessment (Social Work Department)**

Program Development in relation to identified problems (SW Department)

- **Supported community based program efforts at the Community Center, the Seneca Street Church and the Babcock Boys & Girls Club with student volunteers (SW Department)**

"New Professors"

Dr. Susan McClary - Education

For Dr. Susan McClary, teaching is a family affair. Both her son and daughter-in-law followed in her footsteps. They went into the education field and became teachers. Just like Dr. McClary. McClary is the newest member of Daemen College’s faculty.

She chose to go into education because she wanted to help students in grades 7-9 develop as readers and writers. "I always felt it was important to help students explore their potential," said McClary. McClary received her B.A. in English, her B.A. in English Education, and her Ed.D. in curriculum and design from the State University of New York at Buffalo. She began her teaching career at the middle school level. She then taught at the high school level for a while. Later on, she returned to teaching middle school, working district wide. McClary decided to teach at the college level this year. Why?

"When I got close to retirement age I knew I wanted to continue to make a contribution to my profession," McClary said. "So I came here to share my experience with future teachers."

Now that she’s here, she is adjusting to the college. "I’m working my way into things and getting used to everything," she said.

She is teaching several education classes this semester. She also supervises student teaching experiences and practicums for Secondary Education majors.

McClary said that she enjoys being here at Daemen. "I feel it is a very warm and friendly atmosphere," she said. "My students are very eager and interested in becoming good teachers."

Outside of the classroom, McClary enjoys reading, especially books by John Grisham and Patricia Cornwell. She also likes volleyball and watching lots of sports. (Social Work Department)

Professor Dan Tschopp - Business

How many teachers here at Daemen have a pet Python? At least one! Professor Dan Tschopp, another one of our new faces at Daemen, has a pet python named Abdullah.

Tschopp teaches Sports Marketing, Financial Accounting, and Auditing this semester. He has his MBA from SUNY Buffalo. "I went to UB and got in business," Tschopp said.

"A teacher's assistant got me into it," He first started out taking and he recently taught at St. Bonaventure. "Tschopp is from the Amherst area, Cheektowaga specifically. Year," he said. "My parents still live in Cheektowaga," He said.

"My father owns a business there," Tschopp said that he likes it here at Daemen College. With the small campus, and class sizes, he has really come to enjoy the relationships he has with his students. He stated that he felt that there is a laid back atmosphere here that makes him look forward to teaching his classes.

Please Recycle this Newspaper!
PLAYERS WANTED!!!

Canisius College's Pep Band is now recruiting members. If you play an instrument and have an interest in sports, come out and join us! For information contact Deanna at 881-3849.
Daemen planning Academic Festival

by Nancy Hammel

Have you ever heard that a college should be a "marketplace of ideas"? Daemen may not project this image boldly with its traditional classroom designs, stiff-backed chairs, and frequent lack of intellectually stimulating discussion (outside of class material), but Dean Clausen hopes to change this. He has brought to Daemen the idea of an Academic Festival, which will be held on Friday April 20th, and carry over to Saturday April 21st.

An Academic Festival will fulfill several objectives set forth by the Dean: allowing all students to present original work to a large audience, encouraging team efforts, celebrating the academic year, and strengthening the reputation of Daemen College. A Committee has been formed, chaired by Dr. John Tigue, to represent the various interests on campus in the planning of the Festival.

The Committee, consisting of several faculty and one student, hopes members of the Daemen community will contribute exciting pieces of intellectual artwork. Students, alumni, faculty, and guests will prepare original theses, demonstrate them in any way they wish, and subject their work to observation and evaluation by a select panel of judges; prizes will be awarded.

Senior projects are anticipated to account for a large number of entries. Since creativity is an important factor to consider, students are encouraged to present materials in a fresh or original manner. A math major may wish to develop a PowerPoint presentation, while a business student might write an original poem about marketing strategies. Of course, more traditional papers and presentations will also be welcomed.

Individual and team efforts will be welcomed. If you are picturing something that resembles your third-grade science fair, you may not be far from the truth. Instead of volcanoes and the food pyramid, however, the Committee hopes that contributors will tackle subjects a little more towards the "cutting edge." In other words, tell us something we don't already know.

One Committee member, Maureen Pernick, Director of the Career Development Center, feels that students will benefit greatly from participating in the Festival and claims that the projects students choose will give them "more in depth understanding of the subject matter." She adds that the Festival is an excellent opportunity for students to hone skills that are valued by employers, such as public speaking, organization, and teamwork, and that participation in such an event is an attractive feature on a resume.

The Festival may also attract future Daemen scholars. Dr. Peter Siedlecki pointed out that local high school students will be taking part, as the All-High Arts Show and events in the Humanities Department geared towards them will take place concurrently. A conference addressing the issue of "What it Means to be Human" and the second annual High School Poetry reading will be scheduled as part of the festivities.

Ultimately, the Academic Festival will prove to be an exciting addition to the Daemen calendar. The Committee recommends that interested parties begin formulating projects as soon as possible, and see your respective Department Heads with concerns and ideas.

Finals are here!

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feeling nervous,
afraid that you are going fail
thinking that it's just too late?

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