Daemen Reacts to National Tragedy

by Darcy L. Smith

Large-scale terrorist attacks destroyed Manhattan's World Trade Center and part of the Pentagon in Washington, DC on September 11, 2001. The events of this day are likely to be forever imprinted in the minds of most Americans.

Since these attacks, the US has been dealing with feelings of shock, mourning and anger. Even the small Daemen College community has been greatly affected by these emotions.

Daemen President Martin Anisman said that he felt that the effect on this campus was nothing short of profound. "These events affected virtually everyone on campus," Anisman said. "The television reports were portraying it as a 'defining moment in American history.' You see that here. I think it could be a defining moment in the lives of many people here."

Many Daemen students, faculty and administrators felt that they had friends or family who could have been in one of the planes used in the attack, the Pentagon, or one of the World Trade Center Towers. This is especially true of the school's large population of students from New York City.

Zuhairah McRae, a freshman Elementary Education major from New York City, was one of the many students who could not find their families or friends during the first few hours after the attack. "I was so worried that something may have happened to my family and friends," McRae said. "So far, everyone in my family is ok, but I haven't been able to get ahold of everyone I know."

Despite the devastating effects this tragedy had on the campus, many students feel that the college responded both efficiently and effectively. Junior Psychology major, Earlena Washington and Sophomore PA major, Brandon Coburn, both stated that they were very impressed, with how the college administration, faculty and staff reacted to the situation. "If you think back to last year's snow storm, that was nothing short of profound. A Daemen student reflects on the tragedy outside of Canavan Hall. Photo by Darcy L. Smith"}

Daemen Restructures Divisions

by Michelle Smith

How many PT majors are there in the History Club? Do humanities majors ever set foot in the Schenck labs? Students at Daemen often note a lack of integration between departments. However, Daemen is working to change that. A new academic division structure is being implemented that promotes interdisciplinary relations.

Under the new structure, there are three divisions: the Division of Art and Science (DAS), the Division of Health and Human Services (DHHS), and the Institute for Interdisciplinary Studies (IIS).

Existing departments are placed in the DAS and the DHHS; for example, education, business, and the allied health fields are part of the DHHS. The IIS is the most novel division. It oversees the core and will include a new think tank and new interdisciplinary centers.

The DAS and the DHHS are each run by a dean elected by his/her division. These two divisions jointly oversee the IIS. This unique structure will allow for greater collaboration and cooperation between divisions and hopefully eliminate competition and conflict. Furthermore, this collaboration will provide students with depth outside of their own majors.

Dr. Edwin Clausen, Vice President of Academic Affairs and Dean of the College, is confident that this new structure will provide students with four fundamental things: a strong focus (i.e. a major); a core of applicable skills and competencies; an integrated, multiple-approach way of thinking; and the ability to work as an individual and with a team.

The new Faculty-Student Interdisciplinary Think Tank will enhance these fundamentals. It has been funded by a government agency, the Office of Sustainable Development and Intergovernmental Affairs of NOAA (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration). This agency has provided $25,000 that will be used, in part, toward collaborative research in environmental studies and the general area of sustainability.

The division design was one of several placed before the faculty by a committee. The faculty voted after discussion in two large faculty meetings.

Service Learning, Global Style

by Joelle Schelhaus

This fall, Daemen College joined six other North American colleges and universities in the North American Mobility Program. This program gives students the opportunity to spend one or two semesters in Canada, Mexico, or other American cities studying at one of the other schools.

The campuses include: St. Francis Xavier, Nova Scotia and University of Northern British Columbia, British Columbia, Canada, La Universidad de La Salle, Mexico City, Mexico and La Universidad de Guanajuato, Guanajuato, Mexico, the University of Arizona, Central Washington University, and now, Daemen College.

According to Edwin Clausen, Dean of Academic Affairs, this program is designed to help participating students gain a more global perspective while earning a minor in "Sustainable Communities and Civic Society."

"We want to give our students the ability to relate to and work with different perspectives from around the world." - Dean Clausen

"We want to give our students the ability to relate to and work with different perspectives from around the world," said Clausen. "This is not a campus devoid of feelings for others." However, this emphasis on a global perspective will, hopefully, help participating students to feel more empathy for others.

How will this be done? Each semester, students in the North American Mobility Program will take five courses. These are courses of the student's choosing. They can take advantage of the other schools' varied course offerings and take classes Daemen does not offer. The other two are a class in sustainable communities and a service learning/Co-op/internship related to their major. Students will return from the program with a minor and an experience which could prove valuable in today's job market.

The North American Mobility Program will also increase opportunities for inter-

(Continued on page 4)
Americans will never forget. We were targeted by terrorism. Thousands of Americans, both civilians and military personnel, were brutally murdered. These Americans are our first casualties of War.

Two of the mightiest symbols of capitalism and American enterprise, the World Trade Towers, lie in a heap of twisted steel and concrete. The unthinkable has become a brutal reality.

Terrorism is no longer only a threat to distant countries. It has reached our soil and is threatening to change our way of life. We, as a nation, cannot allow this. We must be able to recognize it before we can end it.

Though the majority of Americans agree that some form of retaliation is necessary, we must remember one thing - if the United States formally declares War, America's own sons and daughters will be the ones fighting. It will be their blood shed in defense of this great nation and its freedoms. Citizens and soldiers must band together to see that our nation survives this horrifying tragedy.

This frightening event is the "Pearl Harbor" of our generation. What distinguishes this attack from Pearl Harbor is the identity of our assailants. At Pearl Harbor, we knew who our enemy was. We are still in the process of determining who is responsible for our "Pearl Harbor".

Our grandparents remember where they were when Pearl Harbor was attacked. Our parents remember where they were when John F. Kennedy was assassinated. Our generation will remember where we were when the World Trade Centers were struck down.

After the attack at Pearl Harbor, the Japanese Admiral in charge said, "We have just awoken a sleeping giant". The terrorists responsible for the World Trade Center and Pentagon attacks have done the same thing. By attacking the World Trade Centers and the Pentagon, the terrorists have slapped the United States in the face and challenged our military might. This is a challenge for which they will soon be sorry. They may have destroyed several of our buildings in a few hours. But we have the capability to destroy their entire nation in minutes.

Together, we must ask for a formal Declaration of War against all terrorists and foreign enemies of the United States of America. We are the most powerful nation in the world. We have the most powerful military in the world. The time has come to make sure the rest of the world knows it.
By Darcy L. Smith

If you have ever applied for a job, you know how complicated the process can be. First, you have to apply and submit a resume and/or curriculum vitae. Then, you have to go to a first interview. Usually if that goes well, you go for a second interview. Finally, if you are lucky, you get hired. Though that may be the norm, it is not always the procedure here at Daemen.

Last semester I was asked to sit on the search committee for the new Dean of Student Affairs. Along with the other committee members, I waited through over 50 cover letters and extensive resumes. I also sat through several phone interviews and a few in-person interviews. There were many qualified candidates. There were even a few that I would have liked to work with. However, none of those candidates were hired. Instead, Dean Maria Dillard, the former Dean of Enrollment Management, became the new Dean of Student Affairs.

I do not doubt Dillard’s competency in the position. In fact, as an RA and President of the Student Association, I have had to work with her several times over the past few weeks. All of those experiences proved to be positive. Her efforts in aiding the students in dealing with the recent tragedies proved her ability to work effectively with the college staff, support services and student body.

Regardless of her competency, the manner in which she obtained her Dean of Student Affairs position was questionable, at best. She never submitted an application. She never interviewed with the search committee, the Student Affairs staff or the student body.

In fact, she chaired the search committee whose job it was to find candidates who were suitable for position she, herself, took. Instead of submitting to a search committee, she read them. Instead of answering interview questions, she asked them. Yet, somehow, she ended up with the job.

By Michelle Smith

On August 28, the Daemen community gathered in the athletic facility for the second annual Convocation ceremony. The atmosphere in the gym was one of warmth and welcome for both new and returning students.

The New Face Behind The Desk

By Jennifer Swan

Gannon University. He has been working in residence life for six years. He worked at Gannon for two years, and Penn State for three years. Before working in residence life Dan worked for a professional hockey team in Virginia for a year.

Schiesser said he decided to come to Daemen because he wanted the opportunity to become a director. He added that he enjoyed the campus and that he was excited about the prospect of being closer to his family and friends.

"I liked the small campus atmosphere and the reputation of the school," Schiesser said. "And most of my family and friends live in the Niagara Falls/Buffalo area."

In addition, Schiesser said that coming to Daemen is because he had certain family ties to the school. His mother attended Daemen when it was called Rosary Hill, and his sister also attended Daemen and graduated in 1996.

As the director of residence life here at daemen Dan wants to "improve the image of residence life by getting more people involved in the residents halls. He would like students to have more respect for each other. He also wants to build extra communities.

"I want to use the residence life experience to create pride and school spirit," Schiesser said. "If we can build communities in the residence halls, it will help the campus community as a whole."

Schiesser also stated that he hopes to help facilitate a lot of changes in residence life. He hopes to improve the disciplinary system utilized by his office, increase the number of students who apply for Resident Assistant positions and improve the general operations of the office.

"I think a lot of things were done well here in the past," Schiesser said. "I hope to continue to do those things and change those things that don't. My motto is if it isn't broke, improve it. Otherwise it won't work in the future."

Schiesser will be announcing the basketball and volleyball games this year. He used to announce the volleyball games at Penn State. In addition to all of his responsibilities here, Schiesser is married and he and his wife, Diana, are expecting their first child in October.

Vice President of Academic Affairs

Dr. Clausen, Vice President of Academic Affairs and Dean of the College, stated that he thought that Dr. Browning’s speech was “extraordinary.”

Dr. Clausen said that if people listened carefully, they would see how dramatically history affects the way we live today. Dr. Clausen also reiterated the hope that Convocation would begin the process of involvement for students. He expressed disappointment at “students’ failure to attend” the event. He said that class filled a section of the bleachers, there were many empty seats on the floor.

Dr. Clausen said that he wants students to avail themselves of upcoming events, such as the film series and guest speakers R. Michael Brown, an expert on suicide, and Julian Bond, a civil rights historian.

Convocation was followed by a well-attended campus picnic which was held in the cafeteria due to bad weather.

How to get a Job the Daemen Way

By Darcy L. Smith

I do not doubt Dillard’s competency in the position. In fact, as an RA and President of the Student Association, I have had to work with her several times over the past few weeks. All of those experiences proved to be positive. Her efforts in aiding the students in dealing with the recent tragedies proved her ability to work effectively with the college staff, support services and student body.

Regardless of her competency, the manner in which she obtained her Dean of Student Affairs position was questionable, at best. She never submitted an application. She never interviewed with the search committee, the Student Affairs staff or the student body.

In fact, she chaired the search committee whose job it was to find candidates who were suitable for position she, herself, took. Instead of submitting to a search committee, she read them. Instead of answering interview questions, she asked them. Yet, somehow, she ended up with the job.

Yes, it is quite possible that I am just bitter about having wasted my time with all of the work and meetings that the search committee entailed. However, had I been one of the qualified applicants who had gone through this process only to find out that the person who had interviewed me got the job, I would be even more irate (and reasonably so).

Maybe there is a valid reason this happened. Maybe not. Maybe none of the candidates who interviewed could reach a contract agreement with the school. However, had that been the case, the process should have been started again. At that point, if Dean Dillard decided she wanted the job, she could have posted her resume with the others, and a new committee chair should have been found.

I guess what I hope to get by writing this article is an answer. Why were things done in this way? Why was my time wasted? Why do we have a Dean who never applied for her job? Any responses?

Convocation Kicks Off Academic Year

By Michelle Smith

On August 28, the Daemen community gathered in the athletic facility for the second annual Convocation ceremony. The atmosphere in the gym was one of warmth and welcome for both new and returning students.

The event consisted of a slide show which included pictures of freshmen orientation and events, welcome addresses by representatives of the college administration, alumni, faculty and Student Association, as well as a key-note address.

This year's Convocation address was given by Dr. Christopher R. Browning, an activist and scholar of the Holocaust. Dr. Browning said, "One part of education is to know ourselves." He added that this includes knowing our culture. Dr. Edwin Clausen, Vice President of Academic Affairs and Dean of the College, stated that he thought that Dr. Browning’s speech was "extraordinary."

Dr. Clausen said that if people listened carefully, they would see how dramatically history affects the way we live today. Dr. Clausen also reiterated the hope that Convocation would begin the process of involvement for students. He expressed disappointment at “students’ failure to attend” the event. He said that class filled a section of the bleachers, there were many empty seats on the floor.

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Disclaimer: This article reflects the opinion solely of the editor. It in no way reflects the opinions of the staff or advisors of The Ascent or any other member of the Daemen College community. If you care to respond to this, or any other article in this newspaper, please e-mail us at ascent@daemen.edu.
Daemen Has New Master's Program

by Michelle Smith

In February of 2001, the State Education Office approved a new program that will set Daemen College apart from most other colleges in the country.

This new program is a Master of Science in Executive Leadership and Change, a graduate program that fosters leadership qualities in students by combining liberal arts skills and professional proficiencies. Classes are now underway for the eleven students in the program.

Dr. Edwin Clausen, Vice President of Academic Affairs and Dean of the College, initially proposed this Master's program. Based on recent data, he observed that businesses nationwide are looking for employees who possess skills, such as creative problem solving, derived from a focused liberal arts education. These abilities are often not developed in traditional professional programs which focus on technical skills.

The M. S. in Leadership is an accelerated program, completed in less than two years. Graduate students from all majors are welcome in the program, which prepares students for positions in a variety of fields and environments; these positions include work in businesses, community organizations and not-for-profit organizations. The program stresses leadership and the ability to execute constructive and humane change. It is also designed to aid participants in the development of a global perspective, teamwork, creativity, and civic responsibility.

A current member of the Daemen faculty designed the program. John S. Frederick, Ed.D., was named Executive Director in May; he assumed duties on July 1. M. S. in Leadership courses meet on weekends and take place over five-week periods.

Learning Center Offers Academic Assistance

"I DON'T KNOW WHAT THE INSTRUCTOR IS TALKING ABOUT!"

"HOW DO I TAKE NOTES FROM THIS FAST-SPEAKING INSTRUCTOR?"

"WHAT WILL THIS INSTRUCTOR'S EXAMS BE LIKE?"

"HOW DO I START THIS PAPER?"

In this ever-competitive academic world, it is easy for students to feel overwhelmed, nervous or just plain lost. With that in mind, Daemen College provides students with academic support resources. One of the most visible of these is the Daemen College Learning Center, a message of peace and hope.

Campus ministers Dr. Larry Wright and Rev. Cassandra Salters-Smith reminded the students and faculty that members present that "God did not do this; terrorists did." Those present united with one another in prayer and remembrance.

Despite the tragic nature of this situation, some positive effects have been noticed. Many members of the campus community have noted that the campus has become more unified. Dan Siessher, the Director of Residence Life, noted that this tragedy got students interacting with one another and helping each other.

I was very proud to see students helping students," Siessher said. "There is no good reason for this happening, but at least it brought us as a campus and a country closer together."

Service Learning

(Continued from page 1)

national scholarships. Daemen financial aid will be available to the program. Students also receive a $3000 fellowship to help cover travel and living expenses. The cost of providing the program will be equal to or less than that of attending Daemen; all courses will transfer for Daemen credit.

Students of all majors are invited to participate in this program. This program offers Service Learning experiences that fit into nearly all majors and disciplines. The service learning experiences vary by campus. Students can choose the campus that has an internship that fits them the best. St. Francis Xavier has a huge aquatic resources center. Northern British Columbia has a first nations (Native American) studies program, and its campus is only six years old. La Salle has many opportunities for criminal justice and law service learning experiences with the Federal Mexican Police. Guanajuato has a cutting-edge education program which includes community education. Arizona International College is a part of the University of Arizona. Central Washington University has a strong interdisciplinary and service studies program, as well as numerous opportunities available in Asian studies. This program has Daemen College Spanish Professor Dr. Denise Mills really excited. "Whatever your major or interests, all of these universities have elements that build leadership, social responsibility, and knowledge isn't all academics."

If you are interested in participating in this program, contact Dr. Mills in the foreign language office.
Meet Your Student Association Officers

**PRESIDENT**
Name: Darcy L. Smith  
Year: Senior  
Major: English and History/Government  
Why did you run for a SA office?: "I have been on SA board for a year and a half now. During that time, I have seen some really important changes come about because of student involvement. I wanted to be a part of that."  
What do you hope to accomplish this year on SA?: "I hope to help get students more aware of what's going on here at Daemen. If they are more aware, maybe they will become more involved."

**VP of GOVERNING**
Name: Stephanie Williams  
Year: Senior  
Major: Psychology  
Why did you run for a SA office?: "I ran because last year I had such a wonderful experience being active in the Daemen College community that I decided to do it all over again."  
What do you hope to accomplish this year on SA?: "This year I once again plan on trying to get some of the desires of the students heard and acted upon."

**VP OF PROGRAMMING**
Name: Simone Spann  
Year: Senior  
Major: Humanities  
Why did you run for a SA office?: "I felt like I wanted to be a part of the planning of the events that take place or occur at our school."  
What do you hope to accomplish this year on SA?: "I hope to plan some of the desires of the students heard and acted upon."  

**VP OF COLLEGIATE AFFAIRS**
Name: Michael Patane  
Year: Sophomore  
Major: Physician Assistant  
Why did you run for a SA office?: "I ran for VP of Collegiate Affairs because I wanted to become more involved in the Daemen College community."  
What do you hope to accomplish this year on SA?: "I hope to promote a feeling of involvement here at Daemen. I will serve as a liaison between students, faculty, and the rest of the Student Association board."

**SECRETARY**
Name: Asad Akbar  
Year: Sophomore  
Major: Natural Science Bio Major (pre-medicine)  
Why did you run for a SA office?: "I ran for SA because I wanted to be a part of the decision making team at Daemen. I feel many of my ideas for Daemen student life speak for much of the student body."  
What do you hope to accomplish this year on SA?: "I hope to raise awareness about all campus dealings and events in order to increase student participation. In addition, I would like to create unity among Daemen students by encouraging this campus-wide participation."

**SENIOR CLASS PRESIDENT**
Name: Amanda Bishop  
Year: Senior  
Major: Psychology  
Why did you run for a SA office?: "I am a very active person on campus and I believe I can be a very good representative of the senior class. I think I know what the seniors would like. I am open to suggestions, comments and ideas."  
What do you hope to accomplish this year on SA?: "I hope that I will be able to contribute positively and work with my peers on an intricate level that will make us a very productive group."

**JUNIOR CLASS PRESIDENT**
Name: Andrew Wheeler  
Year: Junior  
Major: Physical Therapy  
Why did you run for a SA office?: "I ran for SA because I wanted to be a part of the decision making team at Daemen. I feel many of my ideas for Daemen student life speak for much of the student body."  
What do you hope to accomplish this year on SA?: "I hope to raise awareness about all campus dealings and events in order to increase student participation. In addition, I would like to create unity among Daemen students by encouraging this campus-wide participation."

**SOPHOMORE CLASS PRESIDENT**
Name: Shehzadali Ismaily  
Year: Sophomore  
Major: History and Government  
Why did you run for a SA office?: "I ran for class president because I wanted to help in making real differences in campus life."  
What do you hope to accomplish this year on SA?: "I hope to be able to set up a more direct link between myself and my class. I hope to institute more programs and activities that all daemen students can participate in and be proud of. Ask not what your campus can do for you, but what you can do for your campus."

**FRESHMAN CLASS PRESIDENT**
Name: Patrick J. Griffin  
Year: Freshman  
Major: Biology  
Why did you run for a SA office?: "I ran for a S.A. office so that I might help the freshman class voice their concerns."  
What do you hope to accomplish this year on SA?: "My goals are to make sure that the freshman class has a smooth and enjoyable year at Daemen College. I also want to help them, if they need it, to prepare for their years ahead."

**TREASURER**
Name: Derek Bigelow  
Year: Sophomore  
Major: Marketing  
Why did you run for SA office?: "I figured the experience of dealing with the SA funds would be helpful in my future. Plus I need the money! Ha ha."  
What do you hope to accomplish this year on SA?: "I would like to be able to keep track of the funds gathered and dispersed by SA, in order to better understand where your money goes."

Interviews and Pictures by Asad Akbar and Darcy L. Smith
Turtles, Field Work and Darwin

Faculty Profile Series: Dr. Rowe

by Joelle Schelhaus

Ask Associate Professor of Biology Dr. Rowe why he chose to go into science and he can't really tell you. He said that he has always been fascinated by organisms. "Biology has always had an allure," said Rowe. "I'm unable to explain it."

Part of it may come from his childhood. He was always a big snake and turtle catcher as a kid. Turtles are still a big part of his life. Rowe spends his summers in the field in Michigan studying turtle ecology and evolution. At Daemen, he also has turtle lab studies. One of his biggest achievements is key publications on turtle ecology.

When he isn't doing research or getting published, Rowe is teaching. He is always interested in getting students into field research.

"I like to get them out into the field instead of lecturing," said Rowe.

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Burn Calories, Not Gas

by Ray Graf

There are easy, yet highly ignored solutions to many problems we face as Americans. Two of the biggest problems are rising energy costs and a shortage of health care. There is one simple answer to both of these dilemmas that, for some reason, Americans refuse to believe possible: EXERCISE!

Roads are congested like never before in the history of America. More Americans own cars and, unfortunately, often put in more mileage than ever. This leads to increased road rage incidents, pollution, and stress-related illnesses. Plus, more traffic means less time to enjoy breaks or to prepare meals.

Americans have turned to pizza, hamburgers, and tacos to fill their stomachs in place of Mom's home cooking. This has created an obesity problem; estimates say that up to 30% of the American population is overweight. People are living shorter, less productive lives due to heart disease and high blood pressure. How can we stop this problem?

The solution is a simple one. Cycling is a great form of cardio activity, and it allows for productive travel time. Many commuters claim that they wait in traffic for 10-15 minutes or more. This time could easily be translated into a fabulous workout.

One does not have to be in Olympic-quality shape to pedal at 15 MPH, yet at that pace, the average man can burn 500-750 calories every 20 minutes, depending on terrain. Not only is traffic reduced, but people can become healthier, and less money needs to be spent on gas. Travel time is hardly even affected in these situations!

Instead of complaining about gas prices or long commutes, people need to stop expecting others to take care of them and become proactive in their approaches to health and the environment. They should encourage their employers to do so, too. Instead of giving mileage reimbursement to employees who drive their SUV's to work, give reimbursements for NOT driving to work.

Schools are an excellent forum in which to advocate this. What better place than college to offer parking incentives in the winter for those who pedal to school in the spring and fall (and burn off some beer calories in the process)?

It doesn't take a genius to work out this solution, or implement it, yet it is rarely ever seen. That is unfortunate, not only for America, but for the rest of the world. The simple solution can be the best.

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Drama Club Takes Show On Road

by Nancy Hammel

"When you wish upon a star..." We all know how the song goes, but do we really expect our dreams to come true?

Wishes can be outlandish, nearly unattainable, and downright impossible, but Blue Horses is an "imagination play" that focuses on a particularly creative group: children. The actors, Daemen students, portray four young children who are coping with their own "crises": one is tired of being picked on, one has learning disabilities and hopes to earn higher grades at school, etc.

Through wishes, the characters are able to experience the lives they would rather lead. Ultimately, with imagination, the children "break boundaries within themselves to find their self-confidence," says director Kelly Beuth.

In search of a young audience, the Drama Club has gone "on tour" and will present Blue Horses to area school-aged children. Special Education students at Buffalo Traditional School will be among the recipients of the Club's talents. Beuth is confident that the show will be well-received not only by its younger viewers, but also by older audiences who will relate to the nostalgic and amusing script.

The Club hopes to schedule seven or eight performances in late November or early December, before the Winter Break. One of these may be a preview performance for the Daemen community, who would be encouraged to bring children to view the play.

Ultimately, Kathryn Schultz Miller, the playwright, has penned an inspiring and comedic account of four children who temporar­ily escape from their discontent. The game "Wish Upon A Star" may seem futile, but Blue Horses shows that through aspirations, we achieve acceptance of others, our world, and most importantly, ourselves.

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Top ten signs that you go to Daemen:

1. You eat more grilled cheese and cereal than you ever did when you were a kid.
2. All the letters your mom sends you are addressed to Demon college.
3. You actually eat at Denny's more often than the cafeteria.
4. 7-PJs does not mean pajamas!
5. You've ever been asked for ID when going into Canavan Hall.
6. Ramen noodles are not only a nice treat, as it went in, only a littlewarmer.
7. You can't look at a golf cart without laughing hysterically.
8. The dirty laundry comes out the same as when it went in, only a littlewarmer.
9. You're a food group.
10. You go to school across the street from your high school that is bigger than your college.

1. When someone asks you where you go to college, and you say Daemen, they reply, "huh?"
The Pan-Am: A Glimpse into Buffalo’s Past

by Ray Graf

Eight million people attended. More than 2,000 pieces of sculpture were commissioned. Three hundred and forty acres of farmland were transformed into a wonderland of sights and sounds. It was the first large-scale display of electricity, and it took place in the western hemisphere. Think it occurred in California or Florida? Nope. It happened in Buffalo 100 years ago in the form of the 1901 Pan-Am Exposition at Buffalo.

The Buffalo and Erie County Historical Society (BECHS) remembers this time, and wants Buffalo to remember, too. World’s Fairs were THE entertainment at the turn of the century. Many major cities had these grand affairs, but Buffalo’s was special. Nevertheless, it has still been forgotten.

In its “Spirit of the City: Remembering the Pan-American Exposition,” the Historical Society highlights this incredible early twentieth-century undertaking. Exhibits in two buildings, including a 3-D slide show, original artwork and movies from the time, and displays seen 100 years ago, can only make the mind wonder at the amazing affair that occurred in Buffalo.

For those unfamiliar with the history behind the Pan-Am Exposition, it was a huge celebration of America emerging as a world power. Having recently won the Spanish-American War, the United States put on a display honoring its accomplishments and the new relations it would have with its southern neighbors. Many buildings were constructed to showcase the cultures and goods of these foreign countries. Even some American states put on displays. To the delight of all, John Phillip Sousa conducted his band at the Temple of Music. The marvelous 375-foot tall Electric Tower, which could be seen from 20 miles away, lit up the sky. There was a marvelous midway that featured attractions like Bonner the Educated Horse, a Flight to the Moon show, an Upside Down House, and one of the first displays of baby incubators in the western world.

President William McKinley is also remembered in the exhibit at the Historical Society. He was assassinated here in Buffalo by a self-proclaimed anarchist. Following this tragic circumstance, Theodore Roosevelt was sworn in as President in Buffalo. Videos of McKinley’s arrival and funeral are on display, as is the gun that fired the two infamous shots.

All age groups can appreciate the history and interactive exhibits that allow Buffalonians to imagine the spectacle that existed 100 years ago. The Spirit of the City Exhibit runs through January at the Buffalo and Erie County Historical Society, across the street from the Albright Knox Art Gallery and Buffalo State...
WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING

Special thanks to Chris Malik for the use of the photographs!