Daemen Students Conduct Unique Scientific Research

By Michelle L. Smith

Located on the third floor of Duns Scotus, the Natural and Health Sciences Research Center laboratory has been on campus for three years. During this time, students and faculty have been conducting groundbreaking research that is attracting local and national attention.

Currently, there are two studies being conducted in the lab: wound healing research and temporomandibular joint (TMJ) research. Both projects examine correlations between protein density in the affected areas and patient treatment. No previous research has looked at this particular combination of information. Dr. Laura Edsberg, director of the research center, worked on these projects at Sisters Hospital. When she came to Daemen, she brought her research with her. "Daemen has not been known as a research institution, [but] we've always had a great science program," said Edsberg. The addition of research to the science program creates unique opportunities for students. "Undergraduate students are typically not involved in research," Edsberg said. "Here, they have hands-on experience with major parts of the project.

Dr. Laura Edsberg, director of the research center, worked on these projects at Sisters Hospital. When she came to Daemen, she brought her research with her. "Daemen has not been known as a research institution, [but] we've always had a great science program," said Edsberg. The addition of research to the science program creates unique opportunities for students. "Undergraduate students are typically not involved in research," Edsberg said. "Here, they have hands-on experience with major parts of the project.

This builds interest in research and allows students to find out what they are interested in." Kerri Hallene, a senior Biology major with a Chemistry minor, has been working on the TMJ project. She said the research program has a positive effect on students. "You learn techniques, how to work with other people, and you get ideas about things you want to [research]," Hallene said. Dr. Edsberg also mentioned the importance of working with others. "The model for collaborative research is a necessity in today's medicine. Here [at Daemen], collaboration is impossible to avoid because of the smallness [of the college]." Students and faculty work together with surgeons in the community. Edsberg said larger institutions are starting to take notice of this model. (Continued on Page 5)

Were You There?

By Marcie Peterson

Residence hall policies and sanctions, Internet access and speed, exercise and aerobics classes, food services, safe sex resources, and security response time. What do these things have in common? They are the issues that were discussed at the Student Association's first Daemen College Town Meeting held on November 5th.

Approximately one hundred people attended, including students (mostly residents), President Anisman, the president's cabinet, and a number of administrators representing various areas of the College.

A big issue was the response time and availability of security guards. "The Vice President of Business Affairs [Francis Balcerzak]," says Maria Dillard, Dean of Student Affairs, "has been taking this issue very seriously." Balcerzak meets with the owner of the security company whenever concerns arise from students and administration, and quite a few changes have already been made. For example, there are many new guards on campus.

Another issue that concerned many students was the quality and variety of food provided through food service. According to the Food Service Committee report by Amanda Bishop, there are many changes to come. These include new recipes for current food items, new items on the menu, and some old items removed from the menu. An "action station" in the dining room will be added to offer prepared-to-order ethnic dishes. Hallmark's President, Executive Chef, Regional Manager, and VP of Operations attended the meeting: they took the students' concerns seriously. Dean Dillard commented, "I have seen a change not only in quality and presentation, but also in [Hallmark's] attitude towards meeting our needs."

A big concern among young adults was also brought up at the meeting: safe sex resources. The Health Services Administrator, Susan Girard, is scheduling safe sex seminars to be presented by representatives of the Erie County Health Department. Hopefully two programs on

Provisional Recognition Granted

By Joelle Schelhaus

Daemen College now has two fraternities.

Maria Dillard, Dean of Student Affairs, recognized Omega Epsilon Zeta as an on-campus fraternity on a provisional basis. Omega Epsilon Zeta has the remainder of the 2001-2002 school year to gain full recognition.

With provisional recognition, Omega Epsilon Zeta can take part in all college. However, full recognition and mention in official college publications are dependant upon the group's impact on campus.

Dillard's decision to give Omega Epsilon Zeta provisional status was based largely on the group's stated intentions of increasing campus, especially freshman, involvement. If they succeed in doing so, they will gain full recognition. "What I'm looking for is that they be a force on campus," said Dillard.

The members of Omega Epsilon Zeta plan to take advantage of their recognition. They are in the process of planning campus activities for next semester. Ideas include a formal and pool tournaments. One of their main reasons they formed the organization was to increase the number of activities. They will take the necessary measures to achieve full recognition.

"We are delighted to be approved," said Omega Epsilon Zeta member Zach Angelone. "If you have any questions, approach any of us."

Dillard's decision ends a long debate over the group's status on campus. Dillard met with many concerned students and read letters written by student organizations while making her decision. Both sides of the debate were considered, and the school's recognition process was followed.

"The students were all very profession al," said Dillard. "It was reassuring with the way all the students handled the situation."

(Continued on Page 4)
The Death of Student Activism

By Darcy L. Smith

Daemen students just don't care about anything outside of their academics. They are all too busy. But I feel that student activism is dead. These are all statements that describe what many members of the community have felt in the past few years. I have even said some of these things myself. Do I still believe it? Yes, to a certain extent, I do. However, because I am in close contact with many of the students who both care about this campus and try to get involved in its operation, I am starting to understand why this apathy has developed into what I see as a severe problem. My impression is that we have campus activists, feel that often our voices fall on deaf ears.

Recently the Student Association was notified by a concerned student that there was a proposal floating around amongst the administration and faculty concerning next year's academic calendar. This plan, an initiative from Dean Edwin Clausen, Dean of Academic Affairs, would schedule the start of the fall semester AFTER Labor Day weekend. Though this would not create a problem next year (Labor Day is early and we would still be done by December 20 with all of our fall semester breaks as they are now), in future years, as Labor Day weekend gets later in September, it could quite possibly require us to be taking finals right up until December 22 or 23. If travel arrangements are difficult to arrange, or weather conditions bad, that could require some of us to stay at Daemen until Christmas Eve or Christmas Day. Or, if the students, there would be no Daemen. If that is true, why are the students and our happiness not placed in higher regard than a retention rate?

Along that same argument, Dean Clausen stated that he believed new students would adjust well to the change and it would become habit for them. He told me that I was not seeing the big picture. I was not thinking in the best interest of the college as a whole. This argument angers me. What is this college if not for the students? To paraphrase what Dr. Joseph Sankoh once said, the college exists for the students. Without the students, there would be no Daemen. If that is true, why are the students and our happiness not placed in higher regard than a retention rate?

I Need To Eat: Another Run-in With Student Accounts

By Derek Bigelow

I am absolutely starving. So I put down my pen, grab my coat and head to the cafeteria. I make my way up the stairs as usual and hand my ID card to the lady sitting at the desk. She swipes it through as normal. But today, it beeps. Not just any beep, the scary beep. The beep that lets me know something is wrong. Oh, let me run that through again." She says. "Beep (the scary one). Now I start sweating. Why is this happening to me? I thought my account was all taken care of, at least that's what I was told by Student Accounts. "What's wrong?" I ask her. "You are going to have to see Student Accounts, you must have an unsettled bill." "But it's 5:30!" I exclaimed. "How am I supposed to eat now?" "You were supposed to get a meal ticket from them." "But I just found out!" "You'll just have to get it settled with them tomorrow," she said. "But I'm hungry now, not tomorrow!" She proceeded to look through a roster of names sprawled out in front of her and she found my name. "Oh, you're an RA! Go ahead."

Yes, I thought to myself, I am an RA. They don't keep us here later in the semester, we would lose vacation days from our Columbus day and Thanksgiving breaks. Does anyone have a problem with this? The students and the Student Association did.

When, acting in my role as Student Association President, I brought the concerns of the students to Dean Clausen, the results were not favorable. We debated (read argued) extensively. Anyone who knows me understands that I have never disliked arguing. In fact, I rather enjoy it. However, the arguments presented by Dean Clausen made me quite upset (read infuriated).

Dean Clausen cited retention as his major reason for wanting to change the schedule. He argued that "the numbers" indicate that a large number of freshmen go home for Labor Day weekend and never return to Daemen. I have never seen these numbers. However, I am an RA in Canavan Hall, the freshman experience residence hall, and none of my residents left over Labor Day break only to not come back. In fact, no freshman that I know of left for the break and did not return. My understanding is that these numbers in question are more related to national statistics. From what I hear from the Office of Residence Life, they are not true of Daemen. We may lose two or three students each Labor Day break. From what I saw in Canavan, we lost almost that many in the first few days of school; the days BEFORE the Labor Day break.

However, the major problem I had with Dean Clausen's argument was that it seemed to esteem retention over the sentiments of the current student body. Dean Clausen said that he believed that we want to start before Labor Day because it is habit. Are Daemen students thought to be so intellectually challenged that they cannot think beyond their habits? I have heard some students argue that the college is only considering changing the start date because they enjoy change for the sake of change. Has change become the habit that the college cannot think beyond?

They have never been more right.

(Continued on Page 3)
Memento: A Puzzle of a Movie

Running Time: 113 minutes
Rated R
Starring: Guy Pearce, Carrie-Anne Moss, Joe Pantoliano
Written and Directed by Christopher Nolan
Columbia Tristar Home Entertainment, 2001

By Nina Zehr

One night at the video store where I work, a man came in and threw a DVD on the counter, snapping at me "This stupid thing won't play right. It keeps skipping from scene to scene so it doesn't make any sense. I want my money back!"

Flustered by his anger, I obediently gave him a refund and watched, relieved, as he left the store. At least until I realized that the movie he rented was "Memento," written and directed by Christopher Nolan.

It's a story about a man, Leonard Shelby, who, due to a head injury, doesn't have the ability to make new memories and is trying to find the attacker who caused his injury and murdered his wife. He can't remember anything that happens to him after his accident, so he writes himself notes, tattoos facts on his body, and is perpetually forgetting where he is and what he's doing.

Folks, the DVD that caused my customer to rant was "Memento," opening by showing the true ending of the story, then explains that ending by shuffling through a series of flashbacks that overlap and repeat themselves. This gives the viewer a sense of how Leonard feels everyday: "Where the hell are we now?" This style of storytelling effectively communicates the frustrations of Leonard's condition and requires more mental exercise than usual. However, Nolan integrates several clever details that serve as clues to where we are in the plot. A scar on Leonard's face appears and disappears, tattoos are added or absent, and certain flashbacks are shown in black and white. Paying attention to these particulars helps ease much confusion at the end of the film.

Besides the surprising plot twists, one thing that makes this movie so memorable is Leonard's grief for his wife. Only time can dull the pain of losing someone we love, and as Leonard points out, "I lie here not knowing how long I've been alone, so how can I heal? How am I supposed to heal if I can't feel time?" He embodies that shattered mourner that all of us fear becoming because he is incapable of getting over his wife. This makes his quest for revenge all the more important, both for him and for the viewer.

I highly recommend this shocking who-dunit to anyone who is tired of frothy romantic crap and "suspense" thrillers that reveal the "surprise" endings in their previews. There's even a nice glimpse of Guy Pearce's butt, for anyone who's interested. Not only is this movie like nothing you've ever seen before, it's unlikely that you will see anything like it again. The only downside to running out and renting it this minute is that after seeing the mind-blowing conclusion, you'll be forced to hit rewind and start over.

The Death of Student Activism

(Continued From Page 2)

If Daemen wants to look at retention, maybe they should consider making the school more student friendly. If Daemen can't keep those students who try to affect change because they love the institution, it's no wonder they are becoming frustrated, bitter and apathetic, how do they expect to keep those who are less inclined towards activism? or those who need to be convinced to love the school? How do they expect to make strong, active alumni?

Were You There?

(Continued From Page 1)

related topics will be given per semester; the first is scheduled for January 23rd.

Also, the issue of condoms being available on campus has been addressed with the Bookstore. They should be available for sale in the Spring Semester and may be available in the Health Services Office.

Regarding internet access and speed, Daemen has purchased an additional T1 line, which will be dedicated to student use.

Residence life concerns were also raised. Dan Schiesser, the new Director of Residence Life, is developing a new document to restate the resident policies in detail and explain sanctions. Dan hopes to have the information ready by January 2002. An idea was brought up about offering exercise and aerobics classes on campus. Chris Malik, the Student Activities Director, is now looking for trained instructors for Tae Bo and aerobics. He has found an instructor for a Pilates class. A Pilates class took place on December third.

A lot has been accomplished dealing with the concerns of the students in connection with this meeting. A meeting will be held next semester for issues that need further attention or for new concerns.

This type of meeting was done about eight years ago and will hopefully continue to be held each semester to keep the lines of communication wide open between the students and the faculty and staff.

The Daemen Dictionary

Class (noun) - 1) Where students are supposed to improve their knowledge of a particular subject. 2) Something to be skipped as often as possible. 3) The source of all pain and misery for students.

College (noun) - A period of four to six years during which a person is in their last year of studies at Daemen. This class of humani­ ty often suffers from superiori­ ty complexes and laziness.

Optional Final (noun) - 1) An event which absolutely no student will attend. 2) Something to be skipped in favor of going home.

Senior (noun) - Those who are in their last year of studies at Daemen. This class of humanity often suffers from superiority complexes and laziness.

SpringFest (noun) - A celebration of the end of winter. (see also: Intoxication)

Study (verb) - The action undertaken by students to prepare for quizzes and exams. This is often done at the last possible hour and for the shortest possible length of time.

(Continued From Page 1)
Provisional Recognition Granted
(Continued from Page 1)

The Student Association (SA) and Student Activities Director, Chris Malik both agreed to recommend the recognition of Omega Epsilon Zeta to Dillard. They felt the new group would be a welcome addition to the campus community.

Both Malik and SA took into consideration the feelings of the student body, as well as the concerns of the other Greek groups on campus.

Consisting of representatives from all Greek groups at Daemen, the Inter-Greek Association (IGA) met with members of Omega Epsilon Zeta. After meeting with Omega Epsilon Zeta, a majority of IGA's Executive board believed the group should not become a recognized Greek organization at this time.

Brandon Coburn, former IGA President, said that the organization was not opposed to Omega Epsilon Zeta becoming Greek. Instead, Coburn said that IGA felt that the new group would be a welcome addition to the Greek community at Daemen. However, "IGA does plan on mentoring and teaching them who a Greek is over the next semester," said Coburn.

At the end of next semester, Dillard will decide whether or not to grant them full recognition.

FACULTY PROFILE SERIES:
Dennis Barraclough: Excellent Artist, Excellent Professor

By Jennifer Swan

One of the most talented and respected art professors at Daemen is Professor Dennis Barraclough. Barraclough has been teaching at Daemen/Rosary Hill since 1972.

Barraclough has been interested in art throughout his life, but he did not always consider it as a career option. After graduating from high school, Barraclough worked in a factory for several months. Then he decided to attend college and pursue his love for art. Because he is from Western Michigan, Barraclough chose to go to the University of Buffalo for his undergraduate work so that he would be close to his family and friends. Barraclough earned his graduate degree from the University of Michigan.

Barraclough is mainly an abstract artist. He typically does abstract paintings and is concerned with color. Barraclough said that he "wants individuals of all ages to react to color in a positive way."

It usually takes Barraclough 3-6 months to complete a set of paintings, and he usually works on 3-4 paintings at one time. He spent the last six months working on the paintings that are on display in the Daemen art gallery. Barraclough said, "Ideas are always in your mind," He also stated that "art is personal and very difficult to do."

Barraclough has had his art work displayed at numerous shows in the United States, including the Albright-Knox, and in Canada.

Barraclough’s paintings have been exhibited in the art gallery since November 16th and will remain there through the 9th of December.

In addition to being an excellent painter, Barraclough is an excellent professor. Jennifer Smith, sophomore Art Education major, said that Barraclough keeps class interesting.

"He's not like other teachers," Smith said. He cares about every student and keeps class interesting."
Daemen College Radio Station

By Shehzad Ali Smaily
Survey by James Middleton

A campus radio station is exactly what this campus needs. A radio station would improve campus communication greatly and, in the long run, may raise school spirit and participation. The majority of students believe that a campus radio station would be a great asset to this campus. In a recent survey conducted by James Middleton, 92.5% of the students surveyed said that they believe that a radio station would be a great idea. This kind of positive support is not only representative of the student population but also of the administrations. The Campus Communications Committee (CCC), a committee which was recently established by the Resident Council, met with the administrative members of the Quality of Life Board. This meeting was held just before Thanksgiving break and was extremely productive. The board strongly believed in this idea and gave their full support to this ambitious project. In fact, they have made this project one of their top priorities.

Starting a Radio Station from scratch is not easy. There are many aspects of such an endeavor which must be carefully taken into consideration. Some of these aspects include programming, staffing, equipment, broadcast scheduling, advertising, and Public Service Announcements. And of course, let us not forget the biggest object of consideration: funding. The cost of such a project will obviously be a debated issue.

The biggest concern right now, besides money, is programming. What will this new radio station broadcast to its listeners? There are many ideas in the works at this moment. Some of these ideas include the following: Music, Talk Shows, Class Cancellation announcements, Special Events, Sports, Educational Speakers, Comedy Hour, Daemen News Hour, and Greek News. The music portion of the programming will include a wide variety of music styles to satisfy the diverse music tastes of the campus. The CCC is still working on more programming options. The CCC is also thinking of forming a partnership with Kiss or The Edge. This partnership would be of great interest and benefit to students and to the college as a whole.

All of the work on the proposed radio station thus far has been student based. In a formal proposal submitted by one Daemen student, the obvious advantages of a campus radio station are clearly stated. According to this proposal, a radio station would help in the integration of students from different majors and backgrounds. For example, English majors with specialization in Communications/Public Relations, can develop important career-related skills while working at a college radio station. Business students specializing in marketing can apply their knowledge to develop promotional materials for the radio station. Art students can create logos and graphics to enhance these materials. “I think that we should have it” says Melissa Benitez, a Freshman Design Major. “It would give students who have bands of their own a chance to have airtime.”

“I would like to hear about events going on in the school” says Nicole Stephens, a Business major. “Being a commuter, I rarely hear about what activities are going on.” These students are just two of many who want to see a campus radio station become a reality.

If you wish to become involved in this momentous project, please contact me at smaily@daemen.edu. You can also become involved by attending the General Resident Council meetings (8pm in Wick, 113-115) or meet with the CCC. The CCC meetings will be announced at General Resident Council Meetings. Let’s all get together and make Daemen history.

I Need to Eat
(Continued from Page 2)

politely.
Great! My SEOG. I, of course, hadn’t the slightest clue what my SEOG was, and was hoping she would tell me.
“Is it a federal grant.”
“When was it removed?” I asked her.
“About a week ago.”
“Why could you not tell me this before?”
“Our systems only update bills twice a semester, one at the beginning, and one at the end,” she said.
Does anybody else see a problem with this? Initially, I only owed slightly under $600. But, after careful examination she found that I owed the school well over $600. This is money I do not have.
Here’s the BEST part! I found this out yesterday, I only have one (two days), you will be asked to vacate the premises,” she said, and in such a lovely voice.

Let me get this straight. My SEOG was canceled last week. By chance, I found out that I even HAD a problem with my bill when I went to go and eat. Plus, because I just found this out yesterday, I only have one day to get the money I need to stay on campus, even though I’m an RA? Is it just me, or is there a problem?

Would it be too much to ask to notify me if there is a change in my bill, before I go to eat? The employees in Student Accounts have said and I’m sure a few post it notes, so why can’t they put a small note in my mailbox? I also have an e-mail address. Oh, and this crazy new invention they call a “telephone”. I must be lucky, I have one of those too! I have seen my phone number on their screens before. It’s got to be there for something, or else it wouldn’t be there.

I feel as though students are not taken as seriously as they should be. This is our school, private business. Is not the primary focus of a business to please its customers, in this case, students? If they improved their communication between the students and Student Accounts, I, for one, would be a much more happy customer.

Happy Holidays &
Good Luck on Finals
From the Ascent Staff

Daemen Students Conduct Research
(Continued from page 1)

The wound research examines proteins from the fluid of wounds. The researchers think they see signs of healing on this level before healing can be seen visually. If a correlation exists, doctors could quickly determine the effectiveness of patient treatment.

The TMJ research investigates a disorder in the jaw area that creates pain and often causes the jaw to make clicking sounds or even get stuck. The researchers look at proteins in fluid, tissue and disks from the jaw area at various stages in the progression of the disease. This research seeks to determine if there is a link that would enable doctors to recommend particular treatments for patients with certain protein patterns.

The Bell Curve &

He’s in the “WITNESS PROTECTION PROGRAM”
Student Association to Host Art Contest

There is going to be art on campus! At least there will be if the Student Association gets their way.

SA is working on a proposal that would sponsor an Art contest. The contest would be open to students from all disciplines and would award prizes for winning art work. Some discussed prizes have been gift certificates to an art-supply store, tickets to the Albright-Knox Gallery and/or a cash prize.

SA hopes to display the winning pieces around campus, but primarily in Wick and Duns Scotus. Those chosen for display will, if the Student Association passes this proposal, have a plaque with the title of the piece, name and graduating year of the artist and the medium in which the piece was done.

This contest was proposed to create a new way to promote the arts on campus. It is intended to give students a new way to display their work.

The idea for the contest was brought to Dean Edwin Clausen, Dean of Academic Affairs, and Student Activities Director Chris Malik. Both gave the project their full support.

Details and deadlines for this contest will be released by the Student Association early next semester. For more information, contact SA President, Darcy Smith at dsmith@daemen.edu.

Junior Class to Host 100 Days Party

A new tradition is in the making at Daemen. This year, the junior class, with initiative from Junior Class President Andrew Wheeler, will be hosting a 100 Days Party for the seniors.

This party is intended to celebrate the last 100 days before graduation. It is to be held, if all goes as planned, on Friday, February 8, 2002. This day is exactly 100 days before commencement.

The event is tentatively scheduled to be held in the Wick Social Room. So far, plans include an open bar, finger foods, music and dancing. The Student Association is even considering running a shuttle to transport the over-21 crowd home after the event.

This event will be open to all juniors and seniors. There will be a limit as to how many people can attend. There will also be an admission fee for the event, but the amount has not, as of yet, been determined.

If you are interested in helping to plan for this event, please see Junior Class President, Andrew Wheeler. He can be contacted by leaving a note in his mailbox at Wick Desk.
Drama Club’s Blue Horses Proves A Success

By Michelle L. Smith

This year’s fall Drama Club production was Blue Horses, an imagination play for children. Daemen students Erin Goodfellow, Ray Graf, Nancy Hammel and Joelle Schelhaus starred in the play.

Blue Horses focuses on four children who take turns wishing on stars. Each child makes a wish, then imagines what it would be like if that wish came true. Some of the wishes are fun, like wanting to fly into outer space on a bicycle. Other wishes have a more serious spin. Goodfellow’s character, a talented violin player who lacks athletic ability, feels lonely and wishes she could play sports with the other children.

As the children’s wishes come true, they learn lessons about the world and about themselves. They discover their own hidden strengths and talents.

The Drama Club performed the play for the Daemen community on November 27.
What's Been Happening

Daemen basketball player Mark Rouse goes up for a jump shot during the homecoming game.

Special Thanks to Simone Spann, Darcy Smith and Laura Witt for the photographs.

The beautiful people! Students waiting for the Shuttle to the Starry Night Formal.

Eyrica and Erica serving Virgin Pina Coladas at Psi Xi Omicrons Tropical TGIF.

Dorm 46E, and the other old residence halls like it, are soon to be a thing of the past.

Stacey and Anna enjoying themselves at a TGIF.

RA Sarah Zaluski decorating her residence hall for the holidays.

Daemen resident students bowling as part of a hall social.

Daemen students having fun at the Starry Night Formal.