Mental Illness at Daemen College
By Erin Wilbert

If you have seen National Lampoon’s Van Wilder, you may be familiar with one scene from the movie applicable to the subject of mental illness: Van, who happens to be half-naked, stands atop a college building, trying to dissuade a stressed-out college male from jumping hundreds of feet to his death. A self-assured, smooth-talking Van convinces said person that life is worth living. The jumper ultimately plunges into a safety net below him. (Perhaps the would-be jumper cannot stand the sight of a naked Van any longer.) This is comical, and yet, I think, oddly realistic. While this opening scene to a hit movie makes light of a serious issue, it also addresses a problem for many college students across the nation. Students, at a rate that has increased to an alarming degree, face a variety of mental health issues in everyday life.

According to a 2004 survey of 47,202 college students conducted by the American College Health Association (and referenced in a Boston Globe article of April 17), fifteen percent of American students experience clinical depression. An astonishing forty percent report an incidence of depression sometime in their four years that, to some degree, impairs their ability to function. To uncover the truth about mental illness and its prevalence within academic institutions, particularly Daemen, I went to the man who has seen and heard much of the other side of campus life, Dan Schiesser, Director of Residence Life. As our interview began, the first question asked was, why is mental illness so widely present on college campuses? One obvious reason, Dan reflects, is that students live so closely together. Living in such close quarters makes hiding depressive disorders, bipolar disorders, or eating disorders virtually impossible.

And as luck (or bad luck) would have it, sometimes the situation proves reversible: living with a roommate who is, to say the least, incompatible, may lead to unhappiness and depression. Or other potential causes may come into play. Living on a single-sex floor causes students - particularly female students - to compare themselves with others, which in turn can lead to eating disorders such as anorexia nervosa and bulimia. And the overall stress of a heavy workload combined with the struggle for perfection provide strong foundations for an anxiety or depressive disorder. Dan believes that depression, for these reasons, remains the most highly diagnosed mental illness on campus.

But the workload in college and other factors can-not be the only reasons for mental illness, or else these rite-of-passage years would not, as the elderly say, be so popular with the kids. Many cases, Dan explains, start earlier in life than the college years. This results in several situations: for students with mental illnesses at an early age, acceptance to college is easier due to newer, better medications. While exploring their new-found independence, students taking medication often skip doses or quit treatment all together - just because they no longer have to report to a parent or doctor. (I can personally attest to this - as a diabetic, once I hit college mom- and doctor-free, I skipped doses like it was my job. Rebels, beware: skipping meds is a bad, bad idea.)

Also, while “medication suppresses symptoms in high school, the stress in college is greater,” says Dan. Again, the high stress levels can overwhelm the formerly in-control students on medication, forcing students into a miserable state. Lastly, Dan points out, the transition from high school to college and the start of a new and improved life often only gives the student a false sense of security and masks previous symptoms of depression. “A lot of cases,” Dan says, “come from earlier in life. The situation presents itself more because the stress and new independence.”

To the casual observer like myself, mental illness seems almost common on college and university campuses these days. More common, at least, than when my parents attended college in the 1960s and early 1970s. Perhaps the biggest reason for this growing rate is that the stigma about mental illness no longer exists in the 2000s as it did in the 1960s and 1970s. “It’s getting more socially acceptable to seek treatment and not to be looked at as weird,” explains Dan reassuringly. Hand in hand with this acceptance, campus officials and healthcare providers are becoming more educated and more aware of depression and suicide than in the flower-power era.

Lastly, one sensitive subject that I have yet to touch upon: suicide. The same survey done by the American College Health Association revealed that one in ten college students had thought of committing suicide. In an editorial in the Buffalo News, “We Can Ease Stigma of Suicide by Talking About Our Loved Ones,” by Karen Miller, Miller cautions, “Suicide is the second-leading cause of death among college students...The general’s recent call to action urges us to join the battle, because suicide among teens and young adults is reaching epidemic proportions.” Scary, huh? Unfortunately, for many college students, suicidal tendencies become a way of thinking and eventually form a train of thought. Suicidal students often channel these thoughts and feelings through cutting and self-mutilation, as these behaviors serve as a release of anger and guilt.

(Continued, Page 2)
Your Introduction to a New Editor

It was about two years ago that the Psychology Club of Daemen College - intelligent, well-meaning individuals - decided to put together a calendar for fundraising, a typical means of raising money, seemingly. But this calendar did not feature on its picture pages kittens or puppies or sunflowers; instead, this was a collection of the best-looking men of the college, students and teachers. Grinning and fully-clothed, they were arrayed in a handsome month-by-month set, each of them achieving considerable notoriety.

Allow me to take this opportunity to lodge an official protest. The calendar was very nicely done, it must be said. But those entrusted with the duty of choosing the men involved made a drastic mistake. They overlooked me.

But with all humor aside, let me introduce myself formally. My name is Sam Wright, and I am a History major, and a senior. Truth be told, I could not be found very easily my first few years here, even if you were to concede to me the notion - all too spurious - that the Psychology Club wanted to find me. They might have tried looking for me in the Marian Library, with its treasures of philosophy, American history, and American fiction. Or they might have searched the History and Government office, where very sage professors have long discussed important political issues of the day. But in the last setting it would have been very difficult indeed to tear me away from listening to one of these wise men and women - who only rarely say very absurd things - to have this picture taken.

My tenure as editor starts this semester, and I am committed first and foremost to giving you the whole story about our lives here at Daemen. That is why you will find a tip box in the Wick Center lobby: if your organization has a plan for a major event, or if you think that there is anything newsworthy that the Ascent should report, please fill out a card and place it in the box. We want to know what you think. Please feel free to e-mail me at ascent@daemen.edu.

This first issue introduces several new series to the paper. One, “Words of Advice,” will feature noted professors here at Daemen discussing the ways in which students can best succeed. Another, “RealTime America,” gives you an eyewitness look at an important event occurring outside of the Daemen community. Here we have sought to give our readership a look into society at large.

Also this issue, my assistant editor, Erin Wilbert, tackles the issue of mental illness on campus, an important problem that desperately needs addressing. On the lighter side, our Culture section, which will soon be the source for all sorts of opinion on movies, music and books, includes a review on two books that may or may not interest freshmen DC society.

Please read on, and contact me with any information as to what's going on here at Daemen College.

“All of Daemen is on the Ascent”

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Mental Illness at Daemen College
(continued from Page 1)
By Erin Wilbert

With the risk of sounding cliche, a parting statement: if you or anyone that you know displays symptoms of a mental illness such as depression, eating disorders, anxiety disorders, bipolar disorders, or suicidal thoughts, please seek help. Here at Daemen College, we have a very approachable and caring staff. Key staff-members to keep in mind include: Dean Mankey (Dean of Student Affairs), Dan Schiesser (Director of Residence Life), Sara Walsh (Assistant Director of Residence Life), and any of your friendly Resident Assistants. Also, for a list of counselors the school provides, please see Sue Girard in the Health Services office. Let’s have a healthy and happy year at DC!

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Contact the Editor at ascent@daemen.edu.

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ASCENT
Editor
Samuel D. Wright
Assistant Editor
Erin Wilbert
The Great Downtown Debate
By S.D. Wright

On August 11th, the six most prominent candidates for Mayor of the City of Buffalo gathered for a debate in the heart of downtown. The event was hosted by the local NBC network affiliate, Channel 2 News, and was held, aptly enough, directly in front of City Hall, in Niagara Square. Billing the debate as a “Showdown in the Square," at “High Noon,” Channel 2 was clearly trying to evoke a Wild West theme, as if the candidates were pistol-slinging mavericks battling for the seat of city government. In reality, six nervous politicians arrived, clutching bottles of spring water and blinking warily into the summer sun.

Big television cameras were everywhere, situated around a tight throng of plastic chairs, where the small audience was to sit when the debate began. As it started, there were as many Buffalonians standing as there were sitting. Many were on their lunch break. Some sat perched on the center fountain, with its spire dedicated to President William McKinley. Others stood alongside, in bulging rows of onlookers.

An hour before the debate, at eleven o’clock in the morning, production personnel filled the square, red-shirted Channel 2 News staffers onstage and behind cameras. “Testing once, testing twice, testing chicken soup with rice,” called one worker. Scott Levin, the station’s foremost anchorman, arrived shortly. He stood behind the rows of audience chairs and practiced his lines: “We’re holding this forum so that you can ask the questions you want...” Levin is likable, seeming to resemble every suburban middle-class dad, with hair receding ever-so-slightly along the top edge of his forehead.

Maryalice Demler came onto the scene not too long after Levin. She sat on the stage and asked dummy questions of the station staffers, who were sit-ins for the candidates. Demler, whose hair was frosted blonde, looked very pretty, wearing a pair of dazzling earrings and marine-blue sneakers with a slitted khaki dress.

The debate stage reminded me of a shoebox turned on its side and facing the audience, with the great bulk of City Hall looming behind it. Every square yard of city pavement was saturated with sunlight. Teeming buildings made of gray, brown and yellow brick formed a perimeter around the square. A few wispy white clouds watched from above.

The candidates arrived in fits, with Byron Brown, the very professional-looking state senator, showing up first in my field of vision. They congregated in a small square tent alongside the stage, joking with Demler and Levin. When the debate began, some opted to remove their suit jackets for good and drape them around their seats onstage. Activist Darnell Jackson was the only candidate to arrive without a suitcoat or any type of formal business wear. They filed onstage, and production personnel ensured that everything was in place.

Finally, the debate began. Demler was the first to speak into the camera. “Good afternoon from Niagara Square...”

“...Channel 2 was clearly trying to evoke a Wild West theme, as if the candidates were pistol-slinging mavericks battling for the seat of city government. In reality, six nervous politicians arrived, clutching bottles of spring water and blinking warily into the summer sun.”

After a few crisply-delivered sentences from Demler, Levin took over from the back of the audience, leaning into the camera lens and gesturing with a set of cue cards in hand. Each candidate would be given forty-five seconds to introduce himself, the anchorman announced.

The first was Kevin Gaughan, who would prove himself to be a polished and fast-talking speaker. He began, “I run for mayor because I refuse to cede our future.” Gaughan graduated from Harvard University and the London School of Economics; he is a handsome fellow who argues effortlessly, a born communicator. According to his website, he counts Robert F. Kennedy Jr. a friend, and something ineffable about his demeanor reminded me of a Kennedy.

The next to speak was Charles Flynn, a big man who arrived later than the others, wearing strange-looking sunglasses and grimacing uncomfortably in the August heat. He was the Independent candidate, and spoke of the “duopoly” in city government led by the “Democrats and the Republicans.” Flynn had a tendency to enunciate slowly and loudly, often sounding angry.

Activist Darnell Jackson spoke after that, and spoke casually, addressing a nebulous way that he “[planned] to open the doors of opportunity...” in Buffalo.

Then followed Steve Calvaneso, a successful businessman and candidate in the Democratic primary. He told the audience first and foremost that he was the only candidate with “…executive experience in the real world,” a point he re-emphasized throughout, even in the post-debate conversation I had with him that afternoon.

After him was Kevin Helfer, the former Common Council member, who sat with his suitcoat draped behind him on the chair. He looked like a lineman on a football team, appearing relaxed and confident, an everyman, who really belonged in a Bills jersey with a beer can in hand. When he introduced himself, he referred to himself in the third person, like a professional wrestler. “When you elect Kevin Helfer...”

(Continued - Page 4)
The Great Downtown Debate (cont.)

As the debate progressed, Demler watched attentively as each candidate spoke. From the beginning, she had displayed an extraordinary graciousness, even helping Kevin Gaughan put on his suitcoat.

The audience was listening closely to the candidates’ ideas, cheering and laughing in turns. The term “garbage user fee” drew angry reactions from the crowd, and when Darnell Jackson was asked by Demler what the average income in the city was, he responded with the question, “What neighborhood?,” which inspired a wave of laughter and applause amongst the people watching.

One audience member, a hawk-nosed, pot-bellied gentleman, was himself a candidate for mayor, at least according to his t-shirt, which featured his picture, his name, and his web address. Regrettably, as a few onlookers observed, the t-shirt was stained. The “candidate” in question, seated a row ahead of me in the audience, seemed to repel prospective voters with an unmitigated series of nonsensical remarks he had made throughout the length of the debate. A visit to his web site a few hours later revealed that he had posted a picture of himself sitting in the audience, staring at Kevin Gaughan as Gaughan spoke. The caption read “Facing Off” with Kevin Gaughan. The man in question had indeed been muttering throughout the debate that Gaughan was a “pretty boy,” but I was never sure that any of the real candidates, including Gaughan, noticed him sitting in the audience.

Several essential issues were addressed in the debate, including casino gambling, the waterfront, and housing. A “lightning round,” wherein each candidate was asked factual questions based on the statistics of Buffalo, provoked a humorous response from the audience. Candidate Charles Flynn, who answered his questions directly after Gaughan, made a show of imitating Gaughan’s exactness by answering with ridiculously specific numbers as answers. Gaughan, good-natured, flashed a toothy smile to the audience. Candidate Calvaneso said that he would eliminate downtown parking meters, while Gaughan, claiming that the East Side “bears more resemblance to Beirut than Buffalo,” promised, like others, to do what he could to rebuild the city.

All of them derided unprincipled patronage, with Gaughan even wanting to cut the mayor’s salary in half.

Not all of them were equally prepared, of course. Byron Brown and Kevin Gaughan, who both sat on the very ends of the row of candidates, were the most polished and the most intellectual. Charles Flynn was blunt. He used the word “cru­ify” when it came to people who did not take care of their property, and when denouncing affirmative action he seemed to be possessed of an intense fury. “Everyone will be treated equally,” he intoned defiantly.

Keyin Heifer came off as a charismatic Buffalonian, and when he stepped off the stage he kissed his son’s forehead. The boy was waiting for him at the steps.

I approached three of the candidates after the debate with the intention of throwing them a question or two. Kevin Gaughan came directly to me as if he knew me, squeezing my arm and providing me with a well-crafted answer to my first question, which was what he thought of the debate. He answered, “I thought the debate was a terrific civic service for Channel 2 to provide.”

Brown left too early for me to approach him. In the debate, he had behaved exactly as a future mayor would, even starting one of his sentences, “As mayor of the city of Buffalo, I am deeply concerned that...” My sense was that he had, beyond this, connected to the voters better than Gaughan had, and that this trend would continue until he captured the mayor’s chair.

I went looking for another candidate to question. Kevin Helfer stood with his son perched on his shoulders. I asked him about the debate, and to rate his performance. He shrugged his shoulders, and said that, with him, “You’re always gonna get a direct answer.” He contrasted himself with his opponents, stating, “People didn’t want to answer the questions.” Still he called the debate “fine” and said that it was a “great day.”

“In the debate, [Byron Brown] had behaved exactly as a future mayor would, even starting one of his sentences, ‘As mayor of the city of Buffalo, I am deeply concerned that...’”

I asked Steve Calvaneso the same questions, to which he responded that the debate “went well.” He re-iterated to me that he was the only candidate with business experience, after I asked him what made him unique. Calvaneso said that he was handicapped early by the fact that there was a delay in his sound system during his opening statement. I thanked him, as I thanked all the candidates I talked to, for their time and input.

On September 13th, primaries will be held for Mayor. More than a month before, I witnessed firsthand that marvel of democracy, the public debate: beauty contest of beauty contests, with the only real vital difference being that the future of the city was in contest. The prize was not a silver tiara but the authority to lead. Granted, there is a solid intellectual core to the arguments of some of these men, and a solid intellectual core to democracy itself. But enmeshed with this also, as it has been from the very beginning, is the unreasonable and trifling considerations of humankind, based on appearances and emotions and hype. Perish the idea that we can change this, of course, or that I would wish to change it. Who, after all, would want Einstein for president?

Yet never doubt that despite all this a crowd of hardened choosers may still select the best man for the job. That is the hope of us all.

You can read Sam Wright’s introduction as editor on page 2. If you have an idea for an event to be featured in the RealTime America series, contact him at ascent@daemen.edu.

“All of Daemen is on the Ascent”
Words of Advice

Most people experience the unsettling disappointment of receiving a poor score in college while in their freshman year. And for some, but not all, more bad grades do follow. What is it, I wondered, that separates those students who falter here and there, and those who fail miserably? I went to the professors.

The first professor featured in this ongoing series is from the Pre-Law department at the college. Her name is Laurie Walsh, and she holds advanced degrees in both law and physical therapy. The Ascent appreciates her graciousness and the kindness of all those professors who responded to our inquiries on this subject.

Without further introduction, Professor Walsh answers the following question, “What makes for long-term success at college, and how can one modify his/her behavior to improve after receiving a bad grade?” -SDW

Professor Walsh responds:

“Some things that I would strongly recommend to ensure success in college (in no particular order):

1. You came to college in order to prepare yourself for the workplace, right? Then ask yourself if you would be successful at work by failing to show, coming to work unprepared or doing shoddy work. If you wouldn’t do it at work, don’t do it at school.

2. Film maker and comedian Woody Allen once said that ninety-percent of life is showing up. Just showing up in class won’t get you ninety-percent in college, but don’t expect more than a “D” if you don’t.

3. Do the assigned reading and participate in class. Trust me, the class will be much more interesting and go a lot quicker for all of us if you do. Plus the teacher will get to know your name for something positive.

4. There is no extra credit in college, or in real life for that matter. Take your best shot at an exam, assignment, etc, when you have the chance. You won’t get another. See # 1.

5. Get enough sleep. Seriously. Research shows that people tend to forget material they tried to learn if they don’t get enough sleep afterwards. Sleep helps you process information and remember it. So, if you pulled an all-nighter with little or no sleep, you just wasted one night of your life. Learn to pace yourself studying and study a little each night rather than cramming. PS - Sleep means sleep, not just lying horizontal with your eyes closed.

6. Try to avoid questions like:
   a. Professor Walsh, did you talk about anything important in class yesterday?

(Continued - Page 6)
Words of Advice (cont.)

b. Professor Walsh, is this going to be on the test?
c. Professor Walsh, do we need to know this?
d. Professor Walsh, why did you give me a _ in this course, on this paper, etc.?
Hint: I do not “give” grades. I calculate the grades students have earned.
e. You get the picture - things like this will make the professor depressed and encourage the professor to remember your name for not so positive reasons.

7. Did I mention it really helps to show up for class, prepared?
8. Remember that only a tiny fraction of college athletes will go on to play sports professionally. The odds are not in your favor. Make good use of your time here.
9. Read and follow the instructions and other information you get - whether it is in the syllabus, an exam, or whatever. See # 1. How do you get instructions/ information? See # 2.

What can you do if you perform poorly?
1. Check rules 1-9 and be honest with yourself.
2. Go and speak to your professor. I may be sarcastic but I've been here twelve years and have never bitten or growled at anyone. When a student comes to see me and is honestly interested in improving his/her grade, that makes a very positive impression on me and indicates that the student cares. But see rule # 4 above. What I am happy to do is to suggest how you can improve on your next assigned test or paper.
3. If you're having problems, or just want to perform better, please see the folks in the Learning Center. They are experts at improving study skills, test taking skills, etc."

In coming weeks, there will be submissions by Professors Blake Thurman, Michael Brogan, and Andrew Kier Wise.

Book Review

Freshmen Fears
Allison Lombardo and Jay Harris Navigating Your Freshman Year New York: Natavi Guides, 2003

This is one of those books your parents hide in your luggage when you leave for college. You’re embarrassed of it; in fact, you hate it. But you read it anyway. As such, we have to review one of these guidebooks sometime this semester, if only to deflate some of the irrational anxieties of freshmen routinely exploited for monetary gain.

The authors of the book Navigating Your Freshman Year, our heroes, Allison Lombardo and Jay Harris, were once one of us. Both were upperclassmen college students at the time the book was written, Lombardo from Brown and Harris from Columbia. They were the student writers commissioned to create a breezy guide to everything frosh, a whirlwind tour through the challenges of life as a first-year student.

Lombardo and Harris do a satisfactory job, but fall short in two significant respects. They describe a first year that is almost monolithically the same for each and every freshman, failing to recognize the diversity implicit to the college experience. Also - and this is perhaps not their fault - the idea out of which the book was conceived, that freshmen need some extraspecial coddling, is a bit - how to put this - exaggerated.

On the first shortfall: Granted, it would only make sense for the book’s publishing agency to tap the intellectual resources of two Ivy Leaguers to write this guide. But as such the culture and privilege of the more well-to-do members of our society come drifting into the book’s advice. For instance, that very banal diversion of those college students without funds - that is, the experience known as “work” - is given a short two pages, and really just one paragraph. We can detect a whiff of snobbery in the following beginning to this one paragraph. It begins, “If you do have to work during college...”

Oh, shove it. Work is the only thing keeping many students at college. Also, commuters are very sparingly considered. (We might infer from Lombardo that perhaps by their very existence commuters betray the whole college experience. ROTC students are not even mentioned. How could they be? After all, Harvard outlawed such patriotic foolishness in the ‘60s.)

But on the second flaw of the book: there is a species of book-publisher that likes to exaggerate the fears of a demographic in order to sell to it. freshmen, your life will not fall apart in college, and if you work hard you really have nothing to worry about. Life your freshman year will probably not be so bad that you have to read a book to prepare for it.

And if trouble does come your way, this slick little manual will help you in proportion to how much two Ivy Leaguers can relate to your life. Which is to say, not much at all. -SDW

Do You Have a Favorite New Movie, CD or Book You’d Like to Review? Or is There a Book, CD or Movie That You Think Desperately Needs Trashing?
Write a Review for the Brand-New Backpage Culture Section of the Ascent.

Write ascent@daemen.edu.
Motorcycle Mayhem

According to a certain English playwright, “All the world’s a stage/ And all the men and women merely players...” If this hoary truth is so, for more than two years a man named William Queen, in one sense a thespian, delivered an astonishing performance under terrific scrutiny. You see, for twenty-eight months, this agent with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms played the part of a drug-snorting motorcycle maniac named Billy St. John in a long-term undercover operation.

His audience was made up of the ever-watchful members of the Mongols motorcycle gang, his brothers-in-crime (or so it seemed), who have long competed with the Hell’s Angels for dominance. The Mongols are a long-time scourge of Southern California. Implicated - indeed, convicted - in numerous stabbings and murders, they are perhaps more feared than the Angels, albeit with a smaller membership. In 2002, the Mongols and the Hell’s Angels made war at Harrah’s Casino in Laughlin, Nevada, with three dead and more than a dozen wounded.

As a person, Queen could not be any more different than those who comprise this killer gang:

as a member of the Army Special Forces in Vietnam, he won the Silver Star. Indeed, plenty of heroism is on display throughout this book on the part of Queen, and an abundance of debauchery and depravity just as evident on the side of the Mongols.

Queen’s job was to convince these thugs that he was a bona fide criminal along with the rest of them, and all the while perform surveillance of every crime that occurred within their organization. He eventually became a Secretary-Treasurer and then a Vice-President of the San Fernando Valley chapter of the organization. Because of his undercover work fifty-four individuals were indicted and fifty-three convicted.

Avoid this book if you have an antipathy toward descriptions of violence and crime given in simple, stark, often obscene terms. I chose Under and Alone to review because it is very much worth reading despite all this: it presents very clearly, without lingering shades of gray, a strong individual acting heroically for the pursuit of law and order. Queen is in no ways a candidate for the sainthood, but he gives us ever more reason to have faith in the valiant men and women of law enforcement who protect us from the more sadistic members of our society. - SDW

Did You Know:
Supreme Court nominee John Roberts, Jr. was born in Buffalo, New York, January 27, 1955?

Art Attack
Arriving soon at the Albright-Knox Art Galleries and the University at Buffalo will be a new exhibit of contemporary Chinese art, entitled “The Wall: Reshaping Contemporary Chinese Art.” The University at Buffalo bills the exhibit as the “...first collaboration between U.S. art museums and a significant Chinese art museum to focus on contemporary Chinese art.” The Chinese museum mentioned is the Millenium Art Museum, in Beijing, where the exhibit is presented this summer before coming to Buffalo.

You can see this exhibit beginning October 21st until January 29th. It is split in three different locations: at the Albright-Knox Art Gallery, the UB Art Gallery, located in the Center for the Arts on the North Campus in Amherst, and the UB Anderson Gallery on Martha Jackson Place in Buffalo.

Also, visit the UB website for more information, www.buffalo.edu/news.
**News on Campus**

**Daemen Receives Money for Wound Research**

The Department of Defense has awarded Daemen College $925,000 dollars for research into the study of chronic wounds. The Center for Wound Healing Research, led by Dr. Laura Edsberg, who is also Director of the Natural and Health Sciences research center, will receive the funds allowing them to study the protein changes that occur when a wound develops. The funds will come through the United States Department of Defense, Army Medical Research & Materiel Command (USAMRMC).

"This research," Dr. Edberg says, "is an important step toward developing a diagnostic tool, which evaluates the healing process in chronic wounds. A standard tool for evaluation of wounds to determine if the treatment is successful at the earliest possible time is necessary and long overdue. This project is the first step leading to the formation of a standard of wound treatment evaluation and a better understanding of the healing of chronic wounds and ultimately fewer chronic wounds."

The award was granted thanks to the efforts of Representative Thomas Reynolds, R-Clarence, who made it possible for the $925,000 dollars to be included in a Department of Defense spending bill.

**Former Daemen Professor Publishes Book on Lab Tests**

Former Daemen College Professor Mary C. Ricotta, Ph.D., has written a layperson’s guide to laboratory tests, entitled *A Consumer’s Guide to Laboratory Tests*. In this book, Ricotta strives to introduce a measure of clarity and simplicity into the public understanding of lab tests.

Daemen College President Martin Anisman said of the book and Ricotta, “As an educator...Mary Ricotta brought an extensive knowledge of medical technology to her classroom coupled with a patient, student-centered teaching style. She made an often mysterious process - laboratory testing - clear and concise to her students. Readers of *A Consumer’s Guide to Laboratory Tests* will find those same indispensable qualities in this much-needed book. It will help all of us become better informed about how so much of our health care is conducted.”

Ricotta, who lives in Amherst, has worked as a clinical laboratory scientist for Millard Fillmore Hospital in Buffalo, a clinical instructor of histology and hematology in the Department of Medical Technology at the University at Buffalo, as a clinical lab consultant, and as an associate professor and program director of medical technology for Daemen College.

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