New Class Presidents Take Office

Mallary Petrus, the new Freshman class president, addresses her classmates.

Senior class president Donnie McMillan also holds forth...

By Erin Wilbert

On Thursday, October 6, the results of the Daemen College class presidential elections were announced. The prize, the presidency, had required a significant measure of time and energy for each candidate to achieve. At Daemen, this means that the students have acquired for themselves a title of considerable prestige but also a sizable responsibility. The Ascent would like to wish them congratulations, and good luck.

The four who emerged triumphant are as follows: Mallary Petrus, Freshman; Elda Alvarez, Sophomore; Jacqueline David, Junior; and Donnie McMillan, Senior.

The Ascent has given two of these students an opportunity to voice their plans while in office as class leaders. Senior Class President Donnie McMillan and Freshman Class President Mallory Petrus weigh in on their hopes for the college and their classmates.

Donnie McMillan

First and foremost, I want to thank all who voted for me to represent them as senior class president. I am very grateful for all of your support, and I believe that by nominating me to represent you as senior class president, all of you strongly believe that I can bring change to Daemen College. I plan to work for the students during my presidency. My ideas are based on one thought, “Change is inevitable. Struggle is an Option.”

I want to make this year one of the most memorable years ever at Daemen College, and I strongly believe that it will be possible with the help of Vice President Samantha Gabel. Empty promises will not be made this year. Ms. Gabel and I will work hard to make this year a year that not only the senior class will never forget, but that Daemen College will never forget. Thank you.

Mallary Petrus

Thank you all so much for electing me the Class of 2009 Freshman President. I have only the best of intentions for my class and will work hard to make sure this upcoming year is a good one. I believe it is truly important to experience college through many different aspects, so I will always encourage the creation of many new clubs and organizations. It is through the expression of our individual interests that we grow as students and adults. We must all have an open mind at Daemen and possess the interest to try new things and get involved. By doing this, we will expand culturally and intellectually.

My main focus for the upcoming year is to promote the notion of new ideas and to bring our class together on many different levels. I really hope that you will view me as someone who will always be open to new ideas and will work with everyone to share those ideas and progress in various us directions. Thank you again for taking the time to vote me as your class president. I look forward to working hard for you all this year.

Memories of Boobar

By Erin Wilbert & Kathy Horschel

October marks one of Daemen’s time-honored and treasured traditions - Boobar. Who at Daemen could make it through the Halloween without this splendid party filled with costumes, candy, haunted houses, and of course, The Bar? While for many students (of age, of course), the main focus of Boobar is the alcohol, other students enjoy the more sober and not-so-frivolous aspects to the event as well.

We at the Ascent surveyed a number of past and present students, asking their favorite memory or what they liked best about Boobar. Here are some of the great responses we received!

"I’ve attended the last four Boobars, and I have to say my favorite thing has to be the creativity and ingenuity of the costumes. Every year, there are always a few outrageous costumes that turn heads or get the most laughs. My favorite memory would have to be two years ago when Gina Smith and I dressed up as firefighters. We even had real firefighter’s pants. The only thing substituted for our costumes were the cans of whipped cream doubling as fire extinguishers. Needless to say, we found a few “fires” to put out that night!" - Mary Parker, former Head Resident Assistant

"It’s a great excuse to dress up for Halloween and be a kid again. Not many people can go trick or treating anymore, so why not do something else fun instead? Besides, it’s a good excuse for the girls to dress like skanks and the guys to check out the girls dressing as skanks!" - Anonymous

"I love the opportunity to just relax and have a great time with my friends! I love the effort that goes into some of the costumes! I love seeing the creativity with the group costumes!" - Julie Schnepp, dedicated Boobar fan

"I have many fond memories, or blackouts, of Boobar. My first year on campus as a freshman and as..." - Anonymous

CONTINUED - PAGE 5
PC Distractions:
How Computers Pose a Conflict Between Productivity and Leisure

By Chris Eagan

Computer usage has increased dramatically on college campuses in recent years, coinciding with the advancement of technology. The Internet has become a valuable resource for breaking news and information. Email is a standard form of communication for both educators and students. Word processing is required for most written assignments produced outside of the classroom. The organization of data through computerized databases has allowed for more efficient college services and shorter lines. This same equipment, however, can be used for activities other than those that serve academic necessity.

When selecting new computers, parents are no longer concerned with the ability of each system to function for optimal productivity. All baseline systems come standard with basic word processing and spreadsheet capabilities. Now each consumer can focus on choosing customizable options for their computer, not unlike those offered for automobiles. Purchasing a high-end video card provides the means for a consumer to play newer games, for example. A wide-screen monitor and surround sound speakers would allow a consumer to convert their computer into a home theater. The Internet has evolved into a hobby of sorts for some individuals, with its vast array of interactive content serving their needs. Multitasking between academic assignments and leisurely pursuits on a computer, such as those aforementioned, is common practice among college-age individuals.

Daemen provides students with various electronic tools. Each student is assigned an official e-mail account and given workspace when enrolled. Computer labs are available for all students in both Canavan Hall and the Business building. The library offers both desktop and laptop computers for research. Residents are provided with Internet access in their dormitories should they arrive with their own computer. Daemen also provides wireless Internet access throughout its campus should you have a compatible card in your computer.

Several notable websites have surfaced that cater to Daemen students. Mark Zuckerberg launched the Facebook.com in February of 2004 with hopes of electronically networking his fellow classmates at Harvard University. The site was an immediate success, and was opened to other students. The “What’s Happening” page shows a calendar of current and future events on campus. Offices provide information online that was once only available on print. The Registrar’s webpage, for instance, provides a detailed academic calendar along with program plans for each degree that Daemen offers.

Pricing permits this year were only obtainable through registering at the official website. Daemen’s library site has direct links for both national and worldwide scholarly databases. Integration of services such as these help to extend the abilities of each individual student whenever they are on campus.

Reflections on “Sex and Cream”

By Erin Wilbert

Daemen’s annual Sex and Cream party took place on Wednesday, September 28. To be honest, I caught a lot of flak from wanting to attend this event, especially from the newspaper staff. Nobody understood why I wanted to learn about a subject, the sum total of which everybody supposedly knows exists. One editor here at the Ascent, whose name will go unmentioned, said dismissively, “I don’t want to go and listen to some lady talk to me like I’m a two-year-old.” What people don’t understand is that yes, sex is essential, but being informed on the safety of sex is just as important. That is why it’s good to know that here in Erie County residents and students have excellent resources.

Firstly, I believe staying informed on sexual health is important because of our current political situation. The Bush Administration is pushing a law mandating adolescents and young adults to talk with their parents before obtaining birth control. While a nice ideal, not every college student is buddy-buddy with his or her parents. Sexual health officials theorize that there will be a sixty percent drop in the use of birth control. This is where programs such as Planned Parenthood and the Erie County Health Department come in handy. The Erie County Health Department has offices in five locations, including Hamburg, Lackawanna, and on Williams Street in Buffalo. All locations are open, 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM. The presenter for “Sex and Cream” was Patti Devine, who has been the coordinator for Erie County for eight years. Contrary to the presuppositions of many students, she did not coddle the crowd or treat us like two-year-olds. In fact, she treated us like the mature, semi-knowledgeable adults that we are.

Devine started her presentation by promoting correct condom use. According to her statistics, in a survey of 362 men:

- Forty-two percent of men wanted to use a condom during sex but...
Catholic Priests Debate Doctrine

By S. D. Wright

On October 5, the History and Pre-Law Clubs played host to a rather unusual event: a debate, not between politicians or students, but between two Catholic priests. Professor Edward Cuddy moderated the debate/dialogue, "Catholicism in Conflict: Can Catholics Find Common Ground?" The event was sponsored by the WNY Call to Action organization.

The chaplain of the University of Buffalo-North, Msgr. J. Patrick Keleher, and the chair of the religious studies department at Canisius, Rev. Martin X. Moleksi, presented opposing viewpoints on the future of the Catholic Church to an energetic audience in the Wick Social Room from seven-thirty to nine-fifteen the night of October 5. Msgr. Keleher represented the liberal or progressive side of the doctrine question, while Rev. Moleksi argued for a more conservative Catholicism.

Perhaps a brief introduction of terminology is in order: in Catholicism, a doctrinal conservative believes in the church's teaching, and resists changes in doctrine corresponding to overall societal attitudes on any given subject. A liberal, on the other hand, is more likely to embrace change initiated from without. As much was made clear in the course of the debate, although one can also find more background information on these differences in the Ascent's interview with Dr. Moleksi this issue (pg. 4).

The night was marked with several firm and direct exchanges of opinion, although the words of both men were carefully tempered and an appearance of cordiality was for the most part maintained. At several points in the debate, the audience hissed and booed. Once a lone voice called out from the crowd angrily. Yet calmness prevailed.

In a pre-arranged format, each priest stood to deliver a fifteen-minute talk on their views, and then after both were completed each was to give a five-minute response to the other. Mgr. Keleher was first.

Keleher began exuberantly, stating his opposition to the "rather desperate title" of the brochure. Why, he wondered, was it assumed that the Catholic Church could not find "common ground?"

Initially, Keleher said that conflict has been a key part of the church from the beginning. And yet he bemoaned the fact that "the church [has] become adversarial."

The problem at the heart of the differences, Keleher said, is an "obsession with the truth." He then stipulated that a question of truth easily becomes a question of "my truth, Vatican truth," and anyone else's truth. He summarized it this way, "Truth in pastoral living can occur only when it's not my truth."

It was then the turn of the conservative priest, Rev. Moleksi. Moleksi began with a personal story. He recounted the story of the "...desperate English teachers," a reference to his disagreement with ways of teaching symbolic meaning in literature, in this sense spiritual literature. At another point in the debate he directly challenged the liberal members of the audience. Almost sarcastically, he asked them, "You're infallible, aren't you?" (Before, he had made his own viewpoint clearly known: "Conscience is not infallible).

It was around this time that an audience member was heard shouting to Moleksi, "You told us to found our own church! This was the only outburst, and what emotional displays this journalist observed were rather timid in comparison to former debates held at the college, such as the debate on the Middle East held two years ago. (This debate also involved Professor Cuddy.)

As the debate ended, Keleher emphasized that he was not a theologian and practically conceded that Moleksi was a better debater than he. And yet more broadly, Keleher made clear that he was no fan of the practice of theology in general, stating that Jesus was no theologian.

Moleksi implacably stated his opinion, absorbed criticism, and grinned only once or twice over the books of Catechism he had brought with him to the debate. Keleher, on the other hand, was much more social and informal, though his emotions were piqued more than once as these questions of Catholic doctrine were debated.

The moderator, Professor Edward Cuddy, said of the debate directly afterwards, "I thought it went pretty well. I would like to have seen more facts, more sharper arguments on the part of Pat [Keleher]."

For more information on differences in Catholic doctrine, see this issue's interview with Rev. Moleksi, the priest representing the conservative viewpoint, on the Religion page. Also, look for an interview with liberal Msgr. Keleher soon.

Could I Be a Lesbian? Or Maybe Just Bi?

If you have questions about your sexual orientation, please come and visit the GLBT Interest Meeting on October 26, in Alumni Lounge at 7:00 PM. Don't be late, and come even if you're straight...
By S.D. Wright

On Wednesday, October 5, two Catholic priests debated matters of doctrine at Daemen College. One was Rev. Martin X. Moleski, S.J., a Jesuit theologian and professor of religious studies at Canisius College. The Ascent asked Rev. Moleski for an interview, featured in this newspaper's brand-new Religion section.

ASCENT: Mr. Moleski, thank you so very much for agreeing to this interview. Daemen College, a formerly Catholic institution, now enrolls quite so very much for agreeing to this interview. We're curious to see what answers you can provide in the way of essential questions. We're curious to see what answers you can provide in the way of essential questions. Center on two essential issues: concerning Christianity broadly; and what defense you can provide of either to a skeptical generation. But again, thank you for agreeing to this interview.

REV. MOLESKI: Sure.

Q: I want to start by covering the concept of Christianity broadly. A lingering theological question of the past has been the question of evil. How can an omnipotent God - all-powerful - allow for priests that molest children? Or for a hurricane that devastates the lives of the hopeless? Or for a tsunami that wipes out a whole coastal area? What answer can you provide to that question?

A: Essentially, the answer is very brief. God loves freedom. That’s it.

Q: That’s it?

A: That’s it. I’ll elaborate, now. But that’s why.

Q: Freedom of will?

A: Well, there’s two kinds of freedom here. We have natural freedom - you talk about hurricanes, fire, floods...snowstorms...plagues, cancer, natural disasters. Those are from having a free universe. A universe in which the human is not central, where things can happen that have no reference to us. We get in the way, and we get crushed like a bug.

There’s human freedom, which you mentioned, sin. Now, we have to understand what our fantasy is. We have this fantasy - wouldn’t a good God create a universe in which no human being could ever be hurt by nature, or by another human being? Well, that kind of universe would have no natural laws, because everywhere there was danger that the law of gravity was going to cause somebody to fall off the top of a building and get hurt, the law of gravity would have to be suspended by this new law, that nothing in nature can hurt a human being. So you’d never know when the law of gravity was going to operate and when it wasn’t going to operate. A universe with fixed laws that has its own nature, that just goes along blindly not aware of us, creates a space for human freedom to act. Because the universe has laws, we can predict how it will act when we make moral choices.

Now we come to a different kind of evil, the evil of sin. God - and Father Pat (Keheler, the priest that debated Moleski) said this - God is gracious to us in giving us so much freedom that we can oppose him. [...] What kind of human universe would it be if I could never do anything that was unloving, something that would harm myself, or harm another person, or break my relationship with God? Well, I would have to be a robot. Every person in the universe would have to be a mindless robot, who would have no choice to be good...Therefore I wouldn’t have any real choice; therefore, there’d be no dignity in making the choice, to love rather than hate, to forgive rather than retaliate. So God wants sons and daughters who love him freely, and therefore, as part of his love for us, he let’s us have the choice.

Q: A rational mind can take reassurance in the fact that you are not a [biblical] literalist.

A: Oh, no.

Q: That you don’t accept the Bible. Genesis, or the Pentateuch, those first five books of the Bible, literally?

A: Correct. I do not take them literally. But that doesn’t mean that they’re meaningless, okay? I think I may have said something about this at the session [the debate], how angry I am at English teachers. What they do is they show students that symbols can have different interpretations, and then they suggest that, well, nobody can really know what a symbol means. And therefore, since there are disagreements about how to interpret a symbol, when you talk about a symbol, you’re talking about meaningless things.

Q: It [the symbol] doesn’t equal anything?

A: Right. It’s what you make of it. This work of art has no meaning or purpose. It is what it is, and what you think it means is what it means to you. So there’s been this destruction of symbolic meaning by the artists and the aesthetes and the English teachers.

Q: [Here our conversation drifted to the subject of science and God.] A great many scientists are themselves naturalists.

A: Sure.

Q: On the atheistic/agnostic side of things.

A: Many of them are still committed to the Enlightenment: that we can know everything simply by reason.

Q: Are you committed to the idea of the Enlightenment?

A: No. Not in its extreme form, that we have no other guides than reason, and that reason is self-sufficient. Those aspects of the Enlightenment...rhetoric I don’t accept. We can know some things with certitude...about the history of the universe...but you can only know the facts by learning how science establishes these things...What’s the meaning of the fact that we can know facts about the physical universe? And when we ask that question...that’s not a scientific question, in the sense that we’ve been talking about science, physics, chemistry, biology. It’s an interpretation of science and an assessment of science. And we can’t put that kind of interpretation or assessment into a test tube.

We can’t do controlled experiments to see whether this interpretation of science is correct, or that interpretation of science is correct. Only philosophy can ask the question and answer it. [...] The guys with the pocket protectors, and the white coats, and the big stunning nuclear accelerators in the background of the television shot, they are no better at saying what the meaning of science is than any other philosopher.

Q: What makes your religion superior to the rest?

A: Why do I accept Catholicism as the one true religion and all other forms of Christianity, and necessarily, all other forms of world religion as false? Essentially, the number one ground [principle] is that Jesus rose from the dead.

Q: What evidence can you provide of that?

A: The testimony of the Apostles. I can’t travel back through time. Jesus is not willing to go into a Resurrection laboratory and let us kill him whenever we feel like it, and sit there and watch him rise from the dead. So this historical event...is once only, not repeatable. There are people who said that they knew him before he died, that they’re sure that he was dead - they know that the Romans succeeded in killing him - and that they saw him afterward with their own eyes...

Q: Do you believe that the Apostles were actually there, and that they did not live seventy years after?

A: Oh, absolutely.

Q: What historical corroboration can you provide for that?

A: There is no possible historical corroboration, if you mean by that somebody who is not an Apostle, who is standing next to them, watching them look at Jesus. There is no videocamera. There are no tape recorders. There are no human beings who have a source outside of the Apostles. All I have is their word that this is what they saw, with their own senses. Now, there’s multiple witness - more than one person...[that] tell the story, and they seem to have been sane and reasonable people...They acted like skeptical inquirers, and they went to look at the grave...

Q: I want to go to the issue of the conflicts within Christianity, and the subject of conservative Catholicism. First of all, please have interpreted the Bible a lot of ways. For instance, the Protestants came about because of “Justification by Faith Alone,” but if we look at James, we can look at James 2:24, “You see that you are justified by what you do and not by faith alone.”

A: Right. Right. “Faith without CONTINUED - PAGE 5
Theologian Discusses Sex, Birth Control

By S.D. Wright

[An interview with Jesuit theologian and priest, Rev. Martin X. Moleski, CONTINUED FROM PAGE FOUR.]

MOLESKI: "[Faith without works] is dead."

A: How can you explain the broad range of possible interpretations that you can see, and that anybody can see, reading the Bible?

M: Well, that's the way human language is. And the Bible is in no worse shape than any other great collection of texts. Look at the Constitution, how much argument there is about what is and is not a valid interpretation of the Constitution. Does the Constitution guarantee the right to kill babies in the womb, or does it not? And Shakespeare's works, works of poetry, great films, great novels...people argue about the right way to interpret them. So that's a function of the way that language is. There is room in symbols for multiple meanings.

A: In the debate you suggested that more liberal Catholics should be more inclined to form their own church, what you call an American Catholic Church...

M: I found out afterwards that there already is one. The American Catholic Church, the United Catholic Church...

A: Considering the fallout over Episcopalians' rise to power in New Hampshire, who is gay, and the fallout from that, where Episcopalians are leaving the church in masses, and they have been, is conservatism - conservative Christianity - more sellable than liberal Christianity?

M: Well, I'm sold on it.

A: I want to address the three broad social issues that are in many ways causing conflict in the Catholic Church. The first issue is abortion. Do you believe that the fetus is life?

M: Yes. From the very first cell. Let me define what I mean by life: it's an organism that has a capacity to take nutrition from its environment, to change, to grow, to develop, in this case, to divide, and to excrete waste into the environment. These are the signs of life, right? If the original first cell is not alive, it cannot become two, four, eight, sixteen, thirty-two cells. So we have a continuous process of cellular life. From the first cell to the fully-developed human being who can pay tuition at Daemen.

A: Perhaps I should rephrase it: is a fetus embodied with more spiritual life than the fetus of a dog, or the fetus of a cat?

M: Sure. Because humans have two spiritual powers that no other animals do. Those are reason and free will.... Aristotle and Plato recognized that there was a spiritual dimension to humans, that other animals lacked... Human beings have a soul. The soul is the form of the body. So that first cell has a soul. It may have more than one. More than one human being can emerge from a single fertilized egg.

A: Is a woman guilty of a sin if she commits an abortion?

M: Yes.

A: Is she more guilty than the abortionist, the abortion doctor, or...

M: Oh, gee. To assign degrees of guilt, again, you have to have a divine mind, because you have to ask how much does she know about what she's doing. I can imagine scenarios at either end of the spectrum, and everything else in the middle.... At that level, as an outsider, I can't judge them. What I judge objectively is that they are killing an innocent human being. If they don't kill it, it's gonna turn into a person.... They don't want it to grow, they don't want it to develop, they don't want it to be able to say, "Mommy, don't kill me..."

A: Do you believe that God is punishing America for the ongoing practice of abortion? That's a typical evangelical opinion.

M: Okay, it's an attractive opinion. I don't know how much of Abraham Lincoln you've read... But his opinion was that the Civil War was punishment for...

A: Slavery?

M: Yeah, that the sins against the African-Americans had brought the wrath of God down upon the country... Can the mindset of people in our culture generate something that is destructive of the culture? It's what the Hindus call karma. Is there karma? Do bad deeds bring evil consequences upon the people who do the bad deeds? My answer is yes. Now, not the hurricanes, not the fire, not the floods... No, there've been hurricanes and fire and floods since before there were humans... There is a potential that we are breeding a mindset against human life...

A: Does God create homosexuals?

M: I think not. Now, I'm not God. And so far as I know, the Church doesn't set against human life... Does God create homosexuals?

M: I think not. Now, I'm not God. And so far as I know, the Church doesn't set against human life... Does God create homosexuals?

A: Final question. To you, the religion you accept, you accept totally?

M: That's how I live my religious life and that's what I recommend to children born each year with birth defects... I have a sister who's got Down's syndrome... there are children who are born blind, they're born deaf... children who are born hydrocephalic. They seem to be totally subhuman.

A: Is a homosexual subhuman?

M: Well, listen. No, no. Don't put words in my mouth (laughs). There are birth defects... It may be a birth defect. Now I don't think science has proven that, but for the sake of argument, let's say that it does... It allows people to be born with defects...

A: On the subject of birth control, is it wrong - is it a sin - for a married couple that have a certain number of children, say five - and no longer wish to have any. They're good Catholics, but they want to use birth control. They don't want to have a crop of eight or nine. They want five, because that's what's economically feasible. In your mind, what's your wrong with birth control?

M: It's a violation of the God-given language of the body, okay, that the act of intercourse says something, it has meaning.... The couple in the act of intercourse are also giving themselves to God. God is part of their union... He joined the intense pleasure of sexual activity to the act by which we procreate... The Church says that because by nature human couples are not fertile all the time, but we are capable of sex all the time, we may take advantage of the fertile periods... This is what we call natural family planning...

A: One person commented that she loves seeing all the costumes people come up with because they are so creative. She stated, "It's fun thinking up costumes. It's such a stressful time of the year, it's great to have fun with your friends."

Boobar will be held on Saturday, October 29th, at 9 PM, in the Wick Center. Admission is free, and refreshments will be served.

Memories of Boobar (continued)

By Erin Wilbert and Kathy Horschel

a newer brother of Phi Beta Gamma, we rocked the house. All the active Brothers and Sisters went dressed up and we danced the night away. The rest of my years were pretty much spent tending the after party! I think students, especially when not part of an active group on campus, tend to forget that you need to make your own fun at Daemen campus. Just because the party isn't "jumping" doesn't mean that with a few friends and some nice beers, it can't be. Over the five years I was at Daemen, I always tried to make an appearance at every event, even if that meant streaking through dorms after the after party!

"Boobar at Daemen is one of the reasons that I haven't missed since I came here. It's always interesting to see what outlandish costumes people come up with to win the contest at the end of the night, or just to get away with looking like a fool one night of the year."

- Anonymous

One person commented that she loves seeing all the costumes people come up with because they are so creative. She stated, "It's fun thinking up costumes. It's such a stressful time of the year, it's great to have fun with your friends."

Boobar will be held on Saturday, October 29th, at 9 PM, in the Wick Center. Admission is free, and refreshments will be served.

You can read an article on the debate in which Rev. Moleski participated on pg. 3.
Richard Dawkins to Speak at University at Buffalo

From the Wires

Richard Dawkins, the Charles Simonyi professor for the Public Understanding of Science at Oxford University, will give a talk at the University at Buffalo on October 27. The talk is scheduled at 8:00 PM in the Lippes Concert Hall in Slee Hall at the Amherst campus of UB.

A stalwart defender of Darwin and evolution, Dawkins has been a prominent figure in contemporary debates on issues related to science and religion. Dawkins has authored the recent book The Ancestor’s Tale: A Pilgrimage to the Dawn of Evolution, and the classic work The Selfish Gene. Yet Dawkins is only one of many thinkers and scientists participating in a four-day world congress titled, “Towards a New Enlightenment,” held in Amherst, New York, from October 27th through 30th, 2005.

Featuring two Nobel laureates, the world congress is hosted by the Council for Secular Humanism, an organization devoted to promoting rational inquiry, which itself is celebrating its 25th anniversary. The Council for Secular Humanism is part of a local think tank, the Center for Inquiry, located in Amherst.

The list of speakers at the conference include such luminaries as Paul Kurtz, philosopher, public intellectual, and founder of Free Inquiry magazine; Chris Mooney, who has written the new book The Republican War on Science; legendary English philosopher Anthony Flew; and of course Richard Dawkins.

Tickets for the talk by Dawkins are fifteen dollars each and ten dollars for students with identification, and can be purchased at the door. For more information about the conference, please visit www.secularhumanism.org.

CAMPUS EVENTS

Spanish Dancing Class
Where: Wick Alumni Lounge
When: Friday, October 21 7:30 to 9:00 PM
Price: FREE

Not Your Grandmother’s BINGO
Where: Wick Social Room
When: Friday, October 21 9:00 PM
Price: ONE DOLLAR ADMISSION

First Home Game - Daemen Hockey Club
Where: Amherst Pepsi Arena
When: Friday, October 21 9:00 PM
Price: FREE

9th Annual Charles McDougald 5k Run and Walk
Where: Begins, Lumsden Gym
When: Saturday, October 21 11:00 AM
Prices Vary

Rotation Day
Where: Friday, October 28
Price: General Student
Confusion and Tumult BOOBAR Halloween Costume Party
Where: Wick Social Room
When: Saturday, October 29 9:00 PM
Price: FREE Admission and Drinks
Proper Identification Required

GOT HEMP!
(clothes, gear, backpacks, food, jewelry, cosmetics, journals and more)

BUFFALO HEMP OUTFITTERS
1005 ELMWOOD AVE. (near Bidwell)
BUFFALO, NY 14202
Words of Advice

The Editors

In this semester's first issue, we introduced a brand-new series to the newspaper, what we call the "Words of Advice" column. "Words of Advice" features distinguished professors at Daemen discussing the best possible ways to study and learn at college. The series is tailored mainly to the new freshmen class.

Without any further introduction, we're pleased to present to you some advice from Professor Andrew Kier Wise, Ph.D., originally from Missouri and a graduate of the University of Virginia.

Professor Wise:

"Students should understand that college is far more challenging than high school. Perhaps the greatest challenge relates to time management. Neither parents nor teachers will berate you about meeting deadlines or preparing for exams in college. We know you are all mature and you will be treated as adults. That's good news, right? Yes, if you are a self-starter. If not, here are a few helpful hints for success at Daemen:

1) Read the syllabus for each class...and take it seriously!
2) When professors assign readings, it means you will be tested on information they cover. While lectures and films often reinforce this information, students who complete reading assignments invariably perform better on exams and other assignments.
3) Pay attention at lectures. Attendance for all classes is expected. However, in order to learn the material and perform well on tests and papers, you must actually pay attention and take notes.
4) Ask questions...both in class and outside of class. Sometimes material only becomes clear after discussions with fellow students or the professor. Professors like teaching and they like discussing issues with students. As long as you respect the opinions of others, your active engagement in class will always be welcome. Remember, intelligent questions can only be formed if you are completing reading assignments and paying attention in lectures. And remember that all faculty have office hours. Visit us if you have questions.

5) Finally, if you are still struggling, seek help from Daemen's academic support staff. All students quickly learn as freshmen that good study habits and techniques are needed to succeed in college. Undoubtedly, you will figure out ON YOUR OWN some ways to improve your performance. But sometimes students need help. Don't despair. Faculty and staff at Daemen College ARE here to help you succeed.

Look for more "Words of Advice" columns in the future.

Meeting Professor Mihai

By Erin Wilbert

Typically, the first reaction a student has when hearing the words "calculus" or "algebra" is to cringe. For me, brain-farts seem to be the typical result whenever I catch sight of a math test. It's not often that someone—a teacher, no less—evokes a warm or fuzzy feeling from me while the subject of math is concerned. So when my editor asked me to interview the new Math professor, it was with a heavy heart and with heavy feet that I ascended the stairs to the third floor of Dunn Scortus, to the Math department.

And yet my mood changed when I crossed the threshold of the Math office, and was greeted immediately with a cheerful smile and a firm handshake from Professor Claudiu Mihai.

Dr. Mihai began teaching at Daemen College in December of 2004. Dr. Mihai moved here from Rumania with his wife and five-year-old son to pursue a Doctorate in education in Math. Previously, Dr. Mihai had taught math at the middle and high-school levels in Rumania.

This summer, Dr. Mihai attended Program NoX, which dealt specifically with math education. The program addressed issues both high school teachers and college professors face, providing them with a support network to turn to if they have problems. "These are people from all different kinds of schools with different kinds of problems," Professor Mihai said. The group came about in order to better the quality of math education.

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Mihai learned ways to attract more students to the math program and also how to put undergrad research together. Dr. Mihai stressed that math professors aren't superheroes or unreachable humans.

"I believe professors aren't some freaky guys sitting in their offices doing math," he said with a chuckle. "We're real people."

Dr. Mihai ended our interview with some brief insights on America. The most striking realization he had in America was that, "[If] you don't ask for something [in America], you will never get it. People will just assume you're happy."

"All of Daemen is on the Ascent"

By Chris Eagan

With this kind of support network, professors are able to utilize outside perspectives of the course they offer, the methods of teaching used in the classroom, and the type of support they offer students with dysfunctional math skills.

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Providing, widespread computer access to students creates a problem for professors that they would rather not have to deal with. Plagiarism, via inappropriate citations or direct theft of intellectual content, has severe consequences, in accordance with Daemen College policy. In recent years, professors have started using Turnitin.com to detect plagiarism and thereby protect the academic integrity of the college.

This website allows professors at academic institutions such as Daemen to submit electronic copies of their student's work. Those documents are then compared with the Turnitin.com database of academic work from other various institutions of learning, along with term papers commonly found through search engines and pay sites. Any part of a student's document that is similar to a database entry is then returned to the professor, highlighted, with a link to the original source of that particular phrase. While electronic devices have allowed for new forms of cheating in academic settings, they have successfully aided in preventing more traditional (and untraditional) forms of academic dishonesty.

Another website utilized by Daemen faculty is Blackboard.com. Blackboard was founded in 1997 and provides a means of interaction and communication between instructors and students. Professors can list assignments and other pertinent information on a site that is accessible only to those students enrolled in their particular course. Distant learning courses, or courses taken over the Internet, can be organized and administered through Blackboard as well. This site also provides tools for instructors, such as charts to keep track of grades and the ability to plan class schedules through online calendars.

In a society that feeds off of technological progression, one must stop for a moment and consider the magnitude to which we are taking advantage of our expansions. This current batch of college students has grown up with the Internet and knows its benefits, as well as its faults. Educators must keep up with changing technology in order to ensure that students remain both informed of subject matter and informed of technology's boundaries.

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The Pearl Jam Excursion

By Adam DeRose

Grunge is basically dead. Nirvana is dead. Alice in Chains is dead. Soundgarden has broken up. But wait - don't zip up that body bag quite yet, homeslice! I still hear a faint pulse from the grunge scene, because there is still one band that is very much alive and rocking out, Pearl Jam.

This leads us to September 13th, 2005, 7:30 PM. The Kid (my little sister Katie) and I arrived at the Copps Coliseum in Hamilton, Canada, to see Pearl Jam. While we waited at the gates, security guards patted us down. When it was my turn for the groping, I asked the guard if he needed me to turn to the left and cough. He said no. The guard frisked around my waist, and I gave out a little "wooo-hoo!" Then he finally let me through. The Kid was laughing hysterically.

The Pearl Jam tour was strictly a Canadian venue, hitting all of Canada's fifteen cities. Like almost every typical rock concert, some crappy no-name band opened to whom no one paid any real attention. While the no-names were playing, the Kid and I wandered around and bought a couple of tour-t-shirts and a poster.

The lights went out and the fans began to cheer and scream. A blue light poured over the stage...The PJs took the stage and the 4,500-plus crowd went wild.

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The Outsiders: Now on DVD

By Kathy Hörschel

One of America's most beloved novels, The Outsiders, by S.E. Hinton, was made a movie in 1983. Directed by Francis Ford Coppola and starring many young actors we still love today, like Matt Dillon, Tom Cruise, and Rob Lowe, the movie was an instant hit. The setting of Tulsa, Oklahoma still strikes a chord with people today. The characters are real and vivid; most viewers can see a bit of each character among their family and friends.

Yet the original movie version of The Outsiders was missing something. Fans of the book couldn't figure out why some of the more important moments of the novel were not seen in the film. The part where Ponyboy gets beaten up is missing, as well as the whole first chapter. Complete storylines in the novel are nearly absent in the movie.

But there is hope. The Outsiders was recently re-released on DVD, and all of those missing pieces have been put back into the movie. It makes it even better and really brings the book to life. The actor's performances are superb; there is no denying that it was well-cast. The new introduction, the first seven minutes, is definitely more true to the book. The soundtrack has been revamped too. Instead of music that sounds like it came from Gone with the Wind, The Outsiders is now filled with music from the 1960s, what you'd expect the characters to listen to. The DVD is a two-disc set: one disc is for the movie, the other for the special features. The special features disc includes a "Making Of" documentary called "Staying Gold: A Look at the Outsiders." It even has cast members reading portions of the book.

I myself have always been a huge fan of the book. It's my "favorite of all time." I recommend this new version of The Outsiders to everyone, especially those who are fans of the novel.