Looking for Long Term Relationship

When President Martin J. Anisman recently urged students, new and old, to "build a life" here at Daemen College, he was addressing a concern that has been weighing heavily on the minds of a lot of people these days.

Is Daemen College just a place for you to visit or two days a week as a bumble bee visits a flower to extract nectar? Or is Daemen a place where you can spend four eventful years - like a bee living in a hive and making honey with other bees? Put another way, are you a taker or a giver?

A college degree is more than a license you receive after performing certain requirements. Rather, it represents the culmination, not only of four years of study, but four years of interacting in a college community in order to know how to live a life ever after.

Are you shortchanging yourself on your college investment? Commuters are especially in danger of leaving Daemen with little more than a degree and a certain amount of knowledge about how the world works and how to make it work for them. By returning to their homes off campus immediately after their last class each day, they are in effect walking away from one of the most important gifts a college can bestow.

Just listen to others who spoke after President Anisman during the fall Convocation:

Jennifer Gurski DePerio, MD ('99 and '02) told students: "I loved my years at Daemen. I was a naive, overly-friendly girl from Rochester, NY, hopping around the fourth floor of Canavan Hall, making lots of friends. My roommate thought I was this crazy cheerleader making friends with everybody. I thought we were complete opposites. But we traveled to Cancun together when we were 22. I was her bridesmaid. We travel back and forth to see each other. So I've made some of my best friends at Daemen. And I hope you guys have that same experience." DePerio warned that there will be some painful experiences during each student's career at Daemen, but added: "Nothing is memorable if it's done without hard work behind it. You'll also have a lot of fun along the way. And if you learn a lot at Daemen, and feel that you've had a good experience out of Daemen, make sure you also get back and volunteer at Daemen. That's very important."

Alumni officials are particularly concerned about getting graduates to return to Daemen for reunions and other events. They have begun to mail copies of The Ascent to recent graduates, in hopes of keeping our links strong. What happens back at Daemen should matter to graduates.

We on The Ascent staff have been brainstorming ways to bring Daemen students closer together every day that they come to campus or leave their dorms to go to class. Many commuters have told us that their schedules often have long gaps between classes, leaving them in a quandary over whether to burn precious gas by driving home or stay on campus to vegetate.

During the Convocation, Desi Desbordes, '09, reminded fellow students that there are 45 clubs and organizations to get involved in at Daemen. He urged them to attend the "fair" from September 15 to 19 where students were invited to go from booth to booth in the Wick Center to learn about these groups.

We should have ongoing activities on campus that students can pop in and take part in between classes. Those 45 student organizations should get together and keep a steady flow of events going on daily at Daemen.

Most of all, we need a real Student Union that is more than just a busy lobby flanked by a few couches and tables. We need a large space that we can call our own - that we can share with each other! - that will bring many clusters of students together throughout the day. It should be large enough for some students to just plunk down and study, for others to watch TV, for still others to have access to computers, as well as the games that are now relegated to a small game room tucked away in a corner of the Wick Center.

How about using space in the old library for a Student Union?

We also need a place with state-of-the-art equipment for exercising. Hopefully the college will decide to go (Continued on P. 2)
Looking for Long Term Relationship

(Continued from P. 1) ahead with the purchase of the old YMCA build-
ing across Main Street.

And how about inviting Starbucks and/or other fast-food franchises to set up shop on campus so students have more choices of social settings for breaking bread with one another?

“My greatest joy is the friendships I had here - which I still have, 50 years later,” Caroline Hassett Buerek, ’59, chair of the Board of Trustees, said during the Convocation. “So as you approach your college career, grab knowledge, pursue your dreams, help your com-
munity - and get to know each other and make friends for a lifetime.”

There is also a career-based reason for bonding with faculty and staff. Denise Mankey, vice-president for student affairs and dean of students advised: “Build relationships with faculty and staff members in ways that go beyond the classroom, so that you will have mentors who can write well-researched reference letters for you.”

Ask yourself a couple key questions: Do you ever stop to read bulletin boards for interesting things to take part in? Do you ever look up the What’s Happening page on the Daemen website? If not, why not?

Getting Daemen students to come closer together will be a challenge. Especially with so many of our students working jobs to help pay their tuition. Time is our most precious commodity.

But it is also most fleeting. If we let our years at Daemen slip through our fingers without building community and lasting friendships, it will all be over in a flash. And it will be left holding a piece of paper in our hand, and a lot of dull memories of coming and going, buzzing from flower to home, from flower to home - instead of buzzing together in a beehive of shared activity.

Lousy Fitness Center

By Missey Bakker

Have you been to the Daemen College Fitness Center lately? Apparently the mainte-
nance department has not. The amount of broken-down equip-
ment in the cardio room is outrageous, and it seems like that is how things are going to stay. The Daemen website says, “sticking around campus and lifting weights, squeeze in a cardio workout, or enjoying a sauna in our fitness complex is always an option too!” This is not going to be an option much longer if the equipment continues to break down and no efforts are made to fix it.

At my last count only one of the four treadmills was working. The ellipticals are slightly better, but not great. Only one elliptical is completely out of order, there is, however, an ellip-
tical that regular gym-goers know to avoid because the resistance is ten times greater than that of a regular elliptical. This last prob-
lem should not be difficult to fix, a little WD40 would most likely do the trick.

The problems do not stop with the fitness equipment. Even the TV has glitches! If you want to change the program I hope you want to watch something on a higher channel; the channel down button is not working.

Studies are continuous-
ly stating the benefits of exercise. Working out is important to your physical and mental well-being, and engaging in physical activ-
ity has been linked with higher academic performance. The ben-

The Ascent

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Join the Ascent!

We are looking for writers, columnists, reviewers, cartoonists, photographers and copy editors, along with graphic arts people to make our pages by composing.

The nucleus of our stuff was formed by students taking CMP 247, Writing for the Campus Newspaper, which is taught by Anthony Cardinale. The three credit course will be offered again in the fall. For those wish-
ing to work on the Ascent staff - without enrolling in the course - the English Department is now offering Ascent staffers one hour of academic credit per semester, up to four semesters. You can e-mail messages and articles to: daemen.ascent@gmail.com

...attendance and support for the teams is hard to get, especially when the basketball teams play less than 4 home games during the semester. Yet, he stated that the soccer team's fans have increased three-
fold now that the home fans are across the street at Amherst High School rather than at ECC.

What makes this wave of support and pride in Daemen College? Chris Malik and Dave Skolen both state that it all depends on the number of stu-
dents who do not like Daemen attendees less than five events.

Chris Malik helps plan multiple events a year. He states that our campus is extremely de-
partmentalized and each group be it P.T., P.A., EDU, or Art majors, usually attends its own events.

While Chris was help-
ing to plan the Homecoming, he stated that despite the smaller activities and events that are fun to attend, we try to bring a main event each semester, an event that all alumni, parents, and of course you students would attend. These events are Homecoming in the fall semester and Springfest in the spring (which is rumored to have a great headliner this school year). Chris said there are more graduate students at Daemen and they want to appeal to all of Dae-
men's population.

Furthermore, back to the question...where's the school spirit? That depends on you; it
dents who are reviving up events. Therefore, pride at Daemen College comes from you, the stu-
dents! You have to get excited and all your friends excited to go to events. Currently Daemen is hosting a movie night every Saturday. Attendance is impor-
tant for the continuation of such events. Did you know that Dae-
men spends $140 on each movie, for rights to show to a public aui-
ence? So, attend them because you are paying for them.

Events that are most popular at Daemen are concerts and comedians. However, last year Marcy's Playground played here at Springfest, and only about 100 students showed up. This year comedian Michael Winslow was signed up, and students are trying to get more pr<
ances during the semester, as well as intramural sports.

A lot of students don’t attend events for various rea-
sons. The main issue is work and schoolwork, but many com-
ments stated that they are usually unaw<
are of events or cannot make them because of rides, gas, or meeting times are difficult to make.

These are acceptable reasons. Yet, Chris Malik stated that more entertainment in dorm rooms has led to lower attendance in school events, as if the students no longer need to go somewhere to have fun. This is true with ca-
ble TV, Internet, and videogame systems. Most people who join clubs, frats, sororities, and attend events say that they are the best way to spend that down time.

Therefore, back to the question...where's the school spirit? That depends on you; it
President Anisman Speaks to Daemen Community

By Missy Bakker

"Overall Daemen College is as good as ever," reported a pleased Daemen College President, Martin Anisman during his annual "State of the College" report September 9, 2008, in the Wick Social Room. In attendance were Daemen College faculty, staff, and students.

President Anisman, who entertained the audience with jokes throughout the hour speech, began by introducing the vice presidents of the college. In turn, the vice-presidents gave recognition to new Daemen College employees and congratulated employees on promotions.

Three awards were given to outstanding employees who exhibited exemplary work ethic over the past year. Along with the recognition of his/her co-workers, award winners receive a plaque, $500, a $500 increase in salary, and their name engraved on a plaque outside President Anisman's office. The recipients of the awards were: Margene Weiss, Outstanding Administrator; Shawn Kelley, Outstanding Faculty; and Diana Alvarado, Outstanding Staff.

President Anisman then discussed the actual "state of the college." Daemen College's enrollment increased 6% from the 2007-2008 school year. There was a 3.5% increase in the enrollment of minority students. Although Daemen has become more culturally diverse, the gender gap is not. Daemen College's student body is comprised of 23.5% male students and 76.5% female students.

Transfer enrollment, President Anisman said, is up as well. The Daemen community welcomed 163 transfer students this year, as opposed to 145 students last year. The average GPA for transfer students is currently 2.9.

One concern that President Anisman addressed was that of health insurance. The cost of the average one year health insurance plan rose 43% this past year. Not only did the college's share increase, so did the faculty members' share. The president acknowledged the need for a change, though at this point he

Opening in January!

By Sherri-Lyn Bauer

"What to wear, what to wear?" Many asked this exact question almost daily. With a variety of materials available, not many would choose to wear paper. After all, when considering the comfort factor, the odds are pretty low. Paper is usually uncomfortable, and movement-one wrong move and rip, the secret's out! Not to mention the chance of getting caught in a downpour with a paper dress complete with necklace, bracelet, earrings, and a headpiece made of paper for him to wear. Kyle was clear that this idea was not his, but he added he "was fine being their fashion victim."

Student Alumni Ambassadors assist with campus functions, such as Welcome Back, Family, Homecoming weekend, and the guest speaker. All are welcome to become Student Ambassadors. There are applications available in Rosary Hall, see Kate Belliotti to pick one up. Meetings are held on one Sunday afternoon each month in Rosary Hall. During its spring retreat, members discuss upcoming events and games are played to get to know each other.

Kyle Puts on Ascent Newspaper Dress

By Katherine Flower

Fried or baked? Baked or fried? Those are the same but many Daemen students are quite particular about what they want. And yet, many students really don't know what is available to them as far as food options go in the Wick Dining Hall. They also really don't care what they eat here at Daemen. Amy Jo DeCarlo offers 12 options to put on a newspaper dress complete with necklace, bracelet, earrings, shoes, and a headpiece made of paper for him to wear. Kyle was clear that this idea was not his, but he added he "was fine being their fashion victim."

Student Alumni Ambassadors assist with campus functions, such as Welcome Back, Family, Homecoming weekend, and the guest speaker. All are welcome to become Student Ambassadors. There are applications available in Rosary Hall, see Kate Belliotti to pick one up. Meetings are held on one Sunday afternoon each month in Rosary Hall. During its spring retreat, members discuss upcoming events and games are played to get to know each other.

These retreats seem to be one of those fun experiences that SAA offers "Fashion Runway." When Kyle was asked if his newspaper wearing days are over, he responded, "I have not retired my newspaper skirt. There might be another newspaper experience this upcoming spring retreat."

Getting involved in SAA could open many doors, and may even cause you to reconsider paper for clothing use. The idea is definitely one to ponder. On one hand, it could be seen as an absurd idea that would never work, due to obvious reasons. On the other hand, there would always be something to read.

Wick’s Nutritious and Delicious?

By Amy Jo DeCarlo

The American Heart Association states that egg yolks are high in cholesterol, which leads to heart problems. Daemen offers high protein substitutes for eggs. Since the yolk is taken out of the egg, there is no cholesterol or fat in the product. The three top-selling egg whites contain 25 grams and 5 grams of protein. However, the color and taste is different from regular eggs.

It seems that students load on cheese, bacon and sausage on the breakfast omelets. Wick offers 12 options to put on the omelets, mainly vegetables. One turkey product is always available in the morning, whether it is bacon or sausage. Vegetable and turkey burgers are offered daily for lunch and dinner.

Many students have allergies to milk products. Soy milk and rice milk are available daily. The dining hall staff usually offers no nuts on brownies because many students are allergic to them. Sometimes the nuts will be placed on top in plain view so a student can choose.

Amy Jo DeCarlo says that there is an "open door policy" at Daemen. If a student has special dietary needs or allergies, they will work together to come up with a suitable menu for the individual. Sometimes if a certain food item isn’t out, that doesn’t mean it isn’t available. The student just has to make his or her needs known.
Lowering the Drinking Age?

By Kristina Meers

The hottest issue among colleges is the debate of lowering the drinking age. Should it be lowered, and what would come out of the final decision? Presidents from the nation’s well-known colleges such as Duke, Dartmouth, Ohio State, Colgate, Tufts, and Syracuse are pressuring lawmakers to lower the drinking age from 21 to 18, approximately the same age when most students begin college. This idea is called the Amethyst Initiative. The goal is not to change the drinking age, but to debate the issue.

This touchy proposal is already facing harsh criticism from MADD (Mothers Against Drunk Driving). MADD officials say this will increase the alcohol-related car accidents. They are also urging parents to think twice about sending their child to a college whose president supports the idea of lowering the drinking age.

On the other hand, college presidents say this will decrease the amount of binge drinking among college students. Binge drinking is a pattern of drinking that brings a person’s blood alcohol concentration (BAC) to 0.08 grams percent or above. For example, if a male college student consumes 5 or more drinks in two hours, that is considered binge drinking.

One study showed about 90% of the alcohol consumed by youth under the age of 21 in the United States is in the form of binge drinks. Lindsay Lewis, a junior at Daemen College majoring in art says: “Drinking would be less appealing; teenagers like to do things they are not supposed to do. If you are considered to be responsible enough to vote and higher education, in one way or another, and therefore it is important for all sides involved to examine this proposal closely. There are however presently no plans by Daemen College to sign on to this plan.

Daemen College President, Martin J. Anisman says: “The issue of drinking on any college or university campus is certainly an initiative in circulation, among a group of college and university presidents, who have come out in favor of lowering the legal drinking age. This is an issue that affects all of us in...”

Youth who start drinking before age 15 are five times more likely to develop alcohol dependence or abuse...”

By Rachel Carroll

Recalling, during my usual Saturday night at a certain bar on Elmwood, my friends and I found that the most entertaining part of the evening was watching all of the under-age partygoers get rejected with their fake IDs. What was so humorous about all of this is that this bar is well known for admitting people who are under 21 and carry ridiculous fake IDs.

Our assumption was that they were having a “strict” night and preparing for a possible first day of school and everyone has never experienced a raid before, it is not a pleasant occurrence. Once the police arrive, no one is allowed to leave. As the lights are turned on and the music is turned off, you stand and wait as the police check each and every single ID.

For anyone who is under 21, your heart has already sunk down into your stomach. I had my own rather amusing experience with a fake ID at this bar before I entered. I entered the side door and approached the bouncer, all while maintaining a high level of self-confidence, as this was not suspicious. I had used my ID in this bar before and had no problem, but little did I know that I would be left uninvited, and unfortunately the bouncer noticed. I attempted to plead my case and claim that my fake license had arrived, but he wasn’t buying it and sent me off on my way. Fortunately, a friend of mine had an extra fake, and with a pair of glasses, a different shirt, and my hair pulled back, I was in. Did I mention that the girl in my fake ID was 30 years old with blonde hair and brown eyes? My hair is black and my eyes are blue. Weird?

Under-age people go to some great lengths to get into clubs and bars. Minus fake IDs, some students do not realize that I have noticed throughout my college years are the faking of the wristband and hand stamp, getting food, using the back door, and of course networking. The wristband is the most common form of identification. It is cheap, relatively accessible, and usually passes perfectly for a wristband. As for the hand stamp, two words: Sharpie marker.

When it comes to getting food you simply go early and order a big plate of food. Later, the bar serves food, come early, buy dinner, and stay until it gets crowded. The back door is always worth a try. I have seen people walk right in. Others had an accomplice inside to open the door for them.

Getting in Under 21

We all know that parking difficulties are evident for those who commute, but what about those who don’t? Kristie Martzolf, an alumna who stayed in the dorms while attending Daemen, recalls that parking wasn’t very simple at times; especially during the fall semester. She recalls having to park in the lot on the other side of the business building, “It was brutal walking that distance, and you could see where it was so cold outside that it hurt to breathe.”

Paula Justin, an executive assistant of the office of external relations, contributes her opinion and says, “Monday and Wednesday mornings seem to be the most difficult to park. I get here around 8:30 a.m. and the parking lot is already pretty full.”

When asked if there were any plans to create more parking spots, she revealed that “they (the parking committee) are definitely looking into purchasing a parking lot on Campus Drive.” This would open more space for students to park, but whether or not this plan will be carried through is unknown...

Ms. Justin also suggested that “If parking lots were added to the road on Campus Drive it would free up parking space. Right now people park with too much space in front of or behind them, which takes up more room.” Having lines in the parking spots would more than likely limit the amount of space used by individual vehicles, and result in more available parking spots.

There is no mistake that parking is a problem that needs to be resolved. Until some kind of strategy is put into place, students will have to continue roaming the parking lots looking for an open space; much like the days of sitting in line for prayer, ready to pounce on the first opportunity they get. It is a game of chance, but sometimes luck is on your side and you are able to slip in unnoticed. Other times it can be nearly impossible.