English Department honors senior with $1000 Masterson award. Other students inducted into honor society. Story on page 2.

Distinguished researcher tells "a tale of old bones and old stones" during "Origins of Mankind" lecture. Read how people are more like chimps than horses are like donkeys. Also on page 2.

Dean of Academic Affairs talks to The Ascent about the need to change career oriented attitudes that ignore the value of the liberal arts. On pages 3 and 5.

College employees can have the chance to park like a president if they donate money to $3.1 million fund drive. See page 5.

Students preparing for finals and upcoming holidays share survival tips. For complete coverage see page 7.

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Daemen College offers more than just a solid education. It also offers success, fulfillment, and knowledge, according to President Robert Marshall in three thirty-second television advertisements that ran for a total of three weeks in November on local network affiliates and independent stations.

Produced by Ellis-Singer Group, Inc., a national advertising agency headquartered in Buffalo, each of the three ads opens to the melodious strains of Vivaldi’s Four Seasons, with one of the three themes—SUCCESS, FULFILLMENT, or KNOWLEDGE—printed in upper case bold letters on a black background. As the music fades, the camera focuses on President Marshall, who, either standing in his office or sitting at his desk, talks about Daemen.

Knowledge is the focus of one ad. “Knowledge of any kind is an awesome responsibility,” says President Marshall. “Those who possess it have the capacity and the obligation to help others who cannot help themselves. When we understand the enormous power of what we know, we begin to realize our own potential to help save the world. At Daemen College we offer you more than just a solid education. We offer you—knowledge.”

Fulfillment is the focus of the second ad. “We at Daemen College are looking for young people who are seeking to fulfill their potential and their dreams. Real fulfillment,” says President Marshall, “can only be found by helping others who are in need. But before you can do this you need a solid education and a desire to use what you’ve been taught for the benefit of mankind. At Daemen College we offer you more than just a solid education. We offer you—fulfillment.”

The third ad’s focus is success. “Real success is not measured by how many toys you have,” says President Marshall, “but by how much you have to offer mankind. To achieve success you need a solid education and the belief that each individual can make a difference in the world. You must use your ambitions and your talents to help others in need. At Daemen College we offer you more than just a solid education. We offer you—success.”

Maria Flournoy, Director of Enrollment Management, says the purpose of the “general image” ads is “to remind people we’re here and to parallel the the Mission Statement of the College.”
MASTERSON SCHOLARSHIP AWARDED TO KROWIAK

Michele Krowiak, a senior English major, received the second John T. Masterson Scholarship Award at the English Department’s annual Honors convocation held at the Eagle House restaurant in Williamsville on December 2, 1987.

The Masterson Scholarship of $1000 is awarded on a yearly basis to the English Department student who has displayed academic achievement. Ms. Krowiak, the second recipient of the award, is the editor of A Step Ascending, the yearly literary publication of Daemen College.

Also honored at the dinner were four English students who were inducted into Lambda Iota Tau, the international literary honor society. Barbara Adams, Kathleen Spain, Loretta Grandits, and David Alan Koscelski were accepted into the society by its advisor Professor Gayle Koscelski.

Lambda Iota Tau is open to English and Modern Language majors and offers the opportunity for students of academic excellence to achieve a measure of recognition in their field. To qualify, the student must have Junior or Senior status and have maintained a 3.0 cumulative grade point average, with at least a 3.3 average in the field of English.

LEAKEY SPEAKS ABOUT PICKS AND BONES

On November 9, distinguished researcher and paleoanthropologist Richard C. Leakey spoke to over 400 people about “The Origins of Mankind” as part of the ongoing event series celebrating 40 Years of Excellence at Daemen College. In the presentation, which President Robert Marshall described as a form of “enlightenment” through the “collegial interaction of students and community,” Leakey, the son of the late paleontologist Louis S. B. Leakey and currently the Chief Executive Officer of the National Museum in Kenya, claimed that “evolution is a natural process” and that even though mankind may no longer be evolving, environmental changes could lead to our extinction.

Evolution is more than “a tale of old bones and old stones,” said Leakey. Evolution also begs the question of when homo erectus split from apes. “It hasn’t happened—yet,” according to Leakey, who also said that chimpanzees are closer genetically to people than horses are to donkeys. People are separated from chimpanzees in that people are self-consciously aware of mortality and chimpanzees aren’t. This awareness leads to important philosophical questions and metaphysical concerns: Where did we come from? Were we created fundamentally as we now are? If we were created in the image of God, does our evolution change the image of God? According to Leakey, chimpanzees are lucky that they don’t worry or even think about such questions.

Leakey also claimed the way people look has changed very little. Pointing to the skull of a now extinct bipedal ape, Leakey stated that even though it may be smaller “it is not unlike one that could be volunteered this evening and yet one can also see size variations at a nearby airport.” If bipedal apes were in existence today, “Would we put them in our zoos or our nonunionized factories?” asked Leakey.

Evolution began when the brain capacity of bipedal apes began increasing and they started walking on two legs, leaving their hands free. Disputing the theory that early mankind scavenged and stole food, Leakey claimed they hunted and that this ability proves they were capable of sophisticated thinking. In order to produce weapons such as hand axes and arrows, early mankind must have been able to conceptualize the tools and the source of the raw materials needed to produce them.

Evolution will always contradict the Biblical account of creation. Yet “Evolution is my perception of truth,” said Leaky, and “if you want another perspective there are other people whom you can talk to—usually on Sunday mornings.” However, for Leaky, since the origin of mankind is an open question, “it’s time to stop arguing and go find more bones.”
DEAN REEDY TALKS TO THE ASCENT

On November 19, The Ascent interviewed Dr. Charles Reedy, Vice President of the College and Dean of Academic Affairs. Dean Reedy, who took his Masters and Ph.D. from St. Michael's College at the University of Toronto, came to Daemen in 1969 to teach in and ultimately chair the Humanities and Social Science Division of the College. Last year, during a one year of absence from the faculty to assist Dr. Marshall with the long range planning of Daemen, Dean Reedy first became Acting Dean upon the resignation of Dr. Ross and then Dean after applying to a Search Committee. Below, Dr. Reedy discusses his transition from faculty to Dean and his ideas for strengthening the liberal arts at Daemen.

Do you miss teaching?

I miss teaching. I love teaching. I could be content being a professor for the rest of my life. And I miss interacting with students. I don’t like walking down the hallways and seeing students I don’t know. I used to teach large numbers of students, and I knew them. As an administrator, I’ve lost a certain contact. I wish students would feel free to drop in my office. As you can see, I can’t always be available. Sometimes I’m in meetings. But there are times when I’m not all that busy, and they could stop and visit. The other thing is that I’m in a role, and sometimes people defer to me. Personally, that’s a very difficult thing for me to do—adopt a role.

Why then did you want to be Dean?

I see being Dean as an extension of teaching. It doesn’t appear to be that way, but I still see myself helping students, working with students, contributing to the process of education. I don’t get to teach out of a particular book or text, but I am able to improve the quality of education at Daemen. I am able to make Daemen a better place to be. So being Dean is an extension of teaching. It’s that I can do more as Dean.

There seems to be a continued emphasis on the sciences at Daemen. How do you foresee the future of the humanities and liberal arts at a school where sciences seem to be the major thrust?

Well, first of all I would like to see a greater balance between the sciences and the liberal arts. I clearly come out of a liberal arts tradition, and I affirm that tradition. One difference in being a dean as opposed to being a faculty member is that faculty are trained professionally to pick out flaws, to look for errors, to look for the flaw in an argument, and sometimes to look for flaws in the administration of a college. As an administrator, I have to look at arguments from a different point of view. With regard to your question, I wish we could have fifty English majors, and fifty more History majors, and fifty more Religious Studies majors, and fifty more Spanish majors. Unfortunately most studies show that people are not going into those fields. So my job is to try to create an atmosphere where the liberal arts can become a greater force and can exert a greater presence on campus.

Traditionally within the liberal arts and the social sciences academicians have focused on the majors and have structured the curriculum to concentrate on upper division levels of the majors. While professors might teach basic introductory courses, their view has been that the real substance, the real heart and soul of the major, is in the upper division, specialized courses. That’s where the professor’s interest is, and that’s where the greater sophistication is. I have been convinced that there is another point of view. While I agree with the above assessment, there has been, I believe, a great error in dismissing the introductory level courses. In fact, these courses offer a great potential to reach a larger number of students and to transmit to them the liberal arts tradition. What remains to be done is to rethink the approach towards the liberal arts at this introductory level.

(See Reedy on page 5, column 1)
CHEATING

During mid-term exams here at Daemen reports of cheating were verified. Such academic dishonesty deserves everyone’s attention, especially now that it’s time for finals.

Every college or university must address this issue at one time or another, and it would be nice to believe the issue needs to be addressed rarely. There seems to be, however, a growing number of incidents involving both students and instructors, not only recently here at Daemen, for instance, but also last year at Erie County Community College. Perhaps the most widely reported incident of cheating occurred at the University of Georgia, where instructors altered the grades of football players who otherwise would not have been able to play due to their poor grade point averages. Which is not to say only athletes cheat. Many others caught cheating are those students who have been labeled “the brightest and the best.”

What might motivate students to cheat? The need to succeed has become far more necessary in today’s world. (If I’m not the best, I don’t have a chance in the real world, or so students think.) Consequently, students strive to succeed at everything, sometimes even at those things that lie beyond their grasp. Many of those who cannot do so honestly sometimes cheat to succeed, whether they are star athletes, star students, or just run-of-the-mill students and athletes.

It’s also been theorized that if a teacher administers an exam and 50% of the class scores low or fails, then the teacher has not presented the material properly. Might inadequate teaching be another factor that motivates cheating? To a degree, yes.

Cheating is a serious offense, Daemen has a policy concerning cheating, and The Ascent advocates appropriate disciplinary actions against students who cheat. More important, The Ascent advocates a study of the causes of cheating and of the solutions to stop it.

IT'S THE HOLIDAYS

So it’s the end of another semester. Final exams are all that’s left to wrap things up, then everyone will be going home, whether home may be in Buffalo, toward New York City, further north, the West, South. The Ascent wishes everyone a safe trip, a joyful holiday, warmth on cold nights, bountiful meals. The Ascent also wishes that you have a happy New Year, a safe New Year. Remember, friends don’t let their friends drive drunk. And the Ascent hopes that the upcoming year will usher in permanent peace and good will among countries of the world.
At another level it is possible to reexamine the core curriculum and to see the introductory courses within the core as becoming an important vehicle for transmitting the presence of a liberal arts to all of our students. Rather than offering the smorgasbord approach that we now have via the distribution requirement, we need, I think, to redesign the core making it more reflective of a philosophy of a liberal arts education. In the past I think there has been too great an emphasis on particular career oriented programs. While these are valuable and essential, too many students have come to Daemen not understanding the larger purposes of education. We need as a college community to integrate the career oriented programs with the liberal arts tradition, and we are presently working on this matter.

What about additions of academic areas that would make for a stronger draw to the college?

I’m open to any and every suggestion. I welcome suggestions. Basically, with all new proposed programs, we do a marketing survey to evaluate the need, the interest, the competition, and the financial feasibility. All that has to be in place before anything is brought to the academic community. We ask for proposals all the time. However, they all have to be integrated with the College’s educational philosophy, which is reflected in the new Mission Statement. The Mission Statement is going to be the guiding philosophy of this college. If you read that statement, which is in the College catalogue, you’ll find a very strong emphasis on the liberal arts tradition.

Is there anything else that you would like to add to this interview?

There’s a dimension of the college, which is a corporate dimension, that needs to be understood. There’s an awful lot of dealing with people outside of the college that is very time consuming and very necessary. The other thing I would like to point out is that one of the things that impressed me the most when I became Dean was how much the administration is responsive to the Daemen College community. I don’t think that people realize the degree of commitment and concern that is there.

EMPLOYEES ASKED TO DONATE TO COLLEGE FUND

On November 18, David Cyr, Director of Development and Alumni Affairs, asked administration, faculty and staff to help the College meet a $3.1 million fund drive, a vital part of the public relations campaign that emphasizes 40 Years of Excellence at Daemen College.

At the kickoff of the Campus Division of the fund drive, Mr. Cyr introduced Dr. Charles Reedy, Vice President of the College and Dean of Academic Affairs, who spoke on behalf of President Robert Marshall. According to Dr. Reedy, the $3.1 million is the largest amount ever solicited. Once raised, the money will be allocated in the following ways: 1,000,000 for scholarship funds; 1,000,000 for endowment funds; 750,000 for campus upkeep; 250,000 for an event series; and 100,000 for faculty development.

Dr. Ellen Banks, Associate Professor of Psychology and faculty representative on the Board of Trustees, stressed the importance of the College’s employees doing their share in helping the College raise the fund. “It is not the dollar amount, but the 100% participation that is important,” said Dr. Banks concerning donations by employees.

College employees can participate in the fund drive by pledging various amounts of money and by choosing a payment schedule to fit individual needs. Those who do pledge will have their names entered in a raffle for the reserved parking spaces of President Marshall, Dean Reedy, and Frank Balcerzak. The lucky winners of the raffle will be announced in February.
EDITORIAL

by Mike Miles, SA President

Too often the Student Association has been accused of being a puppet government, a government that lacks the ability to maneuver. It has also been said that the individuals in this government do absolutely nothing for the students. However, I am happy to report that the validity of this statement has been weakened by the performance of the Student Association this semester. This governing body has done more this semester than in any other semester.

The government has had its fingers in every part of the Daemen Pie. We have worked earnestly to provide services for the students by utilizing the Trustee Committees, which are comprised of students, the Trustee members, the faculty, and the administration. Last week, as a result of combined efforts, Marion Library agreed to remain open until 12:30 a.m. during exam week. In addition, we were able to turn the tutorial center in Canavan Hall into a study hall which will be open from 8:00 p.m. to 2:00 a.m., as will Wick Center, during final exams.

The study hall that is now available is part of a pilot program. We are offering this study area in Canavan as a place where students can study beyond the regular library hours. Use of the study hall will indicate students need it. If it is not used we will assume students have no interest in such a facility.

Although we have been making advancements in academic areas, we have not forgotten about also creating a social atmosphere. Next semester the Student Association and Student Activities will present some big names. Jim Barber, Jim Morris, and Jack Swerzie will be at Daemen. We will also be presenting The Blizzard of Bucks and, of course, Friday and Sunday Night at the Movies. We also have other activities planned for you.

Contrary to popular belief the student officials that you elected have been working hard for you in all aspects of the College. We have worked to make your experiences at Daemen both enjoyable and rewarding.

The preceding is not necessarily the opinion of the Ascent. Its presence in this issue should be interpreted merely as a courtesy to Mr. Miles and not as an endorsement of his views. Anyone who agrees disagrees with Mr. Miles is encouraged to contact him or write the editors of the Ascent.

And below is a list of College committees and the names of students who serve on them

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<tr>
<th>Committee on Committees</th>
<th>Library Committee</th>
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<tr>
<td>Thomas Basciano; Stephen Blochwitz</td>
<td>Mary Beth DeJohn; Tanya Roberts</td>
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<td>Trustee Committee for Academic Affairs</td>
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<td>Joseph Montana; Wendy Thomas</td>
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<td>Admissions and Financial Aid</td>
<td>Trustee Committee for Business Affairs</td>
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<td>Stephen Blochwitz</td>
<td>Michael Miles</td>
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<td>Committee for Equal Opportunity</td>
<td>Trustee Committee for Student Affairs</td>
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<td>Michele A. Cushman</td>
<td>Tracy Gentile; Chris Gaiser</td>
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<td>Human and Animal Research Review</td>
<td>Trustee Committee for Long Range Planning</td>
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<td>Beth Kerr; Jerome Mastrandrea</td>
<td>Christine Wazowicz</td>
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<td>President’s Advisory Council</td>
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<td>Educational Policy Committee</td>
<td>Michael Miles</td>
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<td>Wendy Thomas; Mary Beth De John</td>
<td>Michael Miles; Michael McCormack;</td>
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<td>Paula Trost; Eileen Imperato</td>
<td>Wendy Thomas; Loraine Gaetan</td>
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<td>Student Life Committee</td>
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<td>Francine Finocchario; Lisa Hazel</td>
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'TWAS THE WEEK OF FINALS
(with apologies to Clement Moore)

'Twas the week of finals
and all through the college
were glazed faces of students,
minds muddled with knowledge

The time to call forth
that knowledge was feared
for we knew already
that finals' time were here.

No time for nestling
all snug in our bed.
A night full of cramming
was what lay ahead.

Yet what to my wondering
eyes should appear
but a group of my friends
with six-packs of beer.

Liquid libations
and munchies galore,
a holiday party,
who could ask for more?

Temptation before me
what else could I do?
I've been a good student,
I'm sure to pull through.

I've attended most classes
and turned in my work.
I'm not a bright student
but certainly I'm no jerk!

So on with the party,
on with the feast,
and soon all those finals
will bother me least.

But the voice of my conscience
brought me to reason.
Still I said, "What the hell!
It's the holiday season."

But the voice still persisted
until I gave in.
No party, no funtime,
no tonic and gin.

So I threw out my friends
and went straight to my books.
I started to study.
Not as hard as it looks.

Soon they'll be over,
soon they'll be through,
then we'll go home for Xmas,
so merry Xmas to you!

'TIS THE HOLIDAY

Ring out the holidays! Ring out the cheer! Ring out
the red satin bloomers from Aunt Sally! You’ll
know where I’ll be the first week of Christmas.

I’ll be jolly old St. Nicholas for my nieces and
nephews. I end up with a bowl full of jelly and rosy
cheeks whenever I’m able to spend time with them.

We wish you a merry Christmas and a trip to
Hawaii! Don’t I wish. I’ll not be spending time in
Hawaii, but the next best place is home where I can
relax and enjoy my family.

When the snow falls, there’s no place like Kiss-
ing Bridge for the holidays, and there’s nothing like
a warm body to be comfy and cozy with. Either I’ll
be on the slopes or sledding somewhere else as long
as I don’t lose my car keys in the snow bank. If that
happens, I’ll not locate them until the spring thaw.

Silver bells, silver bells, it’s Christmas time in
Niagara Falls. The Festival of Lights adds glitter
and glow to holidays. It’s amazing to see two
countries getting together to help spread peace and
good will to all. Oh Russia. . . I’ll also be attending
the traditional Midnight Mass as well as the tradi-
tional New Year’s Eve party.

Setting down for a long winter’s nap—that’s
what I’ll be doing. I’ll also be catching up on
visiting friends and relatives as well as most likely
cleaning house.

And there was no room for them in the inn. The
holidays bring out the needs of individuals. I’m
planning to spend time at local soup kitchens and
nursing home to help fill the emptiness of the holi-
day season.

All I want for Christmas is my two front teeth
and for my father and brother to visit Denver.
Thank goodness
I'm through with exams.
I need a break!