



Office of the President

February 23, 2014

Faculty, Staff, and Students  
Daemen College

Dear Colleagues,

I hope you are having an enjoyable and productive semester. I am writing with another update.

On Saturday afternoon in front of a packed Lumsden Gymnasium, Daemen's men's basketball team secured the East Coast Conference Regular Season Championship with their win over the University of Bridgeport. They finished the regular season with a record of 20-6 overall and 17-3 in the ECC. The team finishes the year riding a 35 game home winning streak that began in the 2011-12 season. This is the second longest active winning streak in all of NCAA Basketball across Divisions I, II, and III. They also finished the regular season with a school record of 13 straight wins and 16 straight wins in ECC competition. They are currently ranked #1 in the USCAA D-I Poll, where eight teams will compete for the USCAA Championship in Uniontown, Pennsylvania in early March. Please help me congratulate our student athletes, the coaching staff, and our incomparable coach, Don Silveri. They are all true champions.

I should note, too, that Daemen's Indoor Track and Field Team competed in the ECC Indoor Championships on Saturday in Long Island and had a very strong meet. They won several top 3 medals and made us all very proud. Congratulations to the team and coaches on a great season—Daemen's second Indoor season.

Finally, I am pleased to announce that this year's Commencement speaker will be John A. Catsimatidis, a Greek immigrant who began as a bus boy in New York City and rose to become one of the nation's most successful business leaders. The owner and CEO of Gristedes Foods, the largest grocery chain in Manhattan, and the Red Apple Group, a real estate company, Catsimatidis recently ran unsuccessfully for mayor of New York City.

Update Letter  
February 23, 2014  
Page Two

His rags-to-riches story has been an inspiration to many, and I am sure he will share some of his story in his Commencement speech on May 17.

I look forward to seeing you at Congressman Brian Higgins' Distinguished Leaders Lecture on Monday, February 24 in the Wick Center (7 p.m.). If you plan to attend but have not yet registered, please do so by sending an email as soon as possible to [presidentsoffice@daemen.edu](mailto:presidentsoffice@daemen.edu)

I will continue to provide you with updates as appropriate.

Cordially,

Gary A. Olson  
President