



# daemen today

fall/winter 2007





(L-R) Dean of Academic Affairs Dr. Ed Clausen; Director of Health Care Studies Justine Tutuska; Lars Hallstrom (St. Francis University); Dean of Health and Human Services Dr. Michael Brogan; Quirn Owen (University of Wisconsin); and Tommaso Cavalli-Sforza, Rep. from WPRO, WHO.

Daemen Team Travels to Laos, PDR, with  
Interdisciplinary Consortium for Global Health, to Begin  
*"Silk Homes Project"*



**D**uring the fall 2007 semester, a team of Daemen representatives, together with members of The Interdisciplinary Consortium for Global Health (ICGH), met with the Laotian Minister of Health, Dr. Ponnmek Dalalay, in Laos, PDR. The Daemen team consisted of Dean of Academic Affairs Dr. Ed Clausen; Dean of Health and Human Services Dr. Michael Brogan; and Daemen Director of Health Care Studies Justine Tutuska.

The ICGH, which includes Daemen College as a member institution, is working in partnership with the Western Pacific Regional Office of the World Health Organization (WHO) on the \$19 million dollar "Silk Homes Project" in Laos, PDR. The project will bring an integrated approach to much-needed improvements in the health and economic lives of local residents in that region.

The "Silk Homes" project will focus on creating a maternity waiting home initiative – a place for safe delivery to women coming from remote locations in Laos, where medical services are not available. The project will also provide health education and skill-based training (i.e. silk, handmade paper, bamboo production). In addition, women will be taught skills in areas such as silk weaving and papermaking, with the hope that they will be better able to support their families and transfer the skills to their communities.

Members of the ICGH who traveled to Laos included Quinn Owen (University of Wisconsin); Giovanni Deodato (Director of the Silk Homes Project); Lars Hallstrom (St. Francis University) and Laurie Chan (University of Northern British Columbia).

Border photos: Scenes from Laos, taken during the Daemen team's fall, 2007 trip.





# Western New York Service Learning Coalition Awarded Grant of \$485,654 from the John R. Oishei Foundation

## For Large-Scale Collaboration to Promote Student Engagement in the Community

The Western New York Service-Learning Coalition (WNYSLC) has been awarded a three-year grant of \$485,654 from The John R. Oishei Foundation. Established in 2001, at the initiative of Daemen College in collaboration with Niagara University, the WNYSLC is a highly active collaboration of colleges, universities and non-profit and community-based organizations committed to sharing resources and practices related to engaging students in the community.

With this grant, they will hire staff, develop a region-wide database, and support collaborative events and projects to coordinate the placement of undergraduate students in service-learning positions in the Western New York community. Housed at Daemen College, the WNYSLC is comprised of representatives from higher education institutions representing a combined undergraduate enrollment of 52,000+ students.

"Daemen College is extremely grateful for the generosity and support of The John R. Oishei Foundation," stated Daemen President Dr. Martin J. Anisman. "Many non-profit organizations are already strapped for time and resources. Through our participation in the Western New York Service

Learning Coalition, we will be able to continue to provide much-needed assistance to community organizations that need it most. This generous funding will enable the Coalition to strengthen the foundation and infrastructure of the organization, allowing us to develop effective, lasting projects and take this collaboration to the next level."

Dr. Edwin Clausen, Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean of Daemen College, founded the Coalition in 2001 with representatives from Niagara University. He serves as a steering committee member of the Western New York Service Learning Coalition. "The WNYSLC is a collaboration that is significant in scope and has already demonstrated itself as a model nationally for collaboration between and among private and public institutions and non-profit and community-based organizations. This investment will significantly enhance the Coalition's capacity to streamline practices, reduce duplication, and to engage multiple constituents strategically and thoughtfully in efforts to improve our region.

"Service learning is an educational experience that goes beyond volunteering – it connects students to the community by integrating academic curriculum with active participation in

service. These placements are mutually beneficial to students, the organizations, and the community as a whole."

The John R. Oishei Foundation's mission is to enhance the quality of life for Buffalo area residents by supporting education, healthcare, scientific research and the cultural, social, civic and other charitable needs of the community. The Foundation was established in 1940 by John R. Oishei, founder of Trico Products Corporation.

For more information about the WNYSLC, visit [www.wnyslc.org](http://www.wnyslc.org).



## Daemen Team Travels to Southeast Asia



Seen in Laos are (L-R) Dr. Laurie Chan (University of Northern British Columbia), Daemen Dean of Health and Human Services Dr. Michael Brogan; Dr. Nouanta Manibhouay, Ministry of Health, Laos PDR; Giovanni Deodato (Director of the Silk Homes Project); and Daemen Dean of Academic Affairs Dr. Ed Clausen (additional story inside, page 13).

Daemen College representatives traveled to Laos, PDR, during the fall, 2007 semester, to begin a project aimed at providing health education and skilled-based training to residents of remote locations in that country. The \$19 million *Silk Homes Project* brings Daemen together with collegiate members of The Interdisciplinary Consortium for Global Health (ICGH), and the Western Pacific Regional Office of the World Health Organization (WHO).

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