



OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

October 11, 2023

Daemen University  
Faculty and Staff

Dear Colleagues,

I hope you are having a productive start to another academic year. I am writing with some updates.

In light of the atrocities occurring in the Middle East, I am delighted to report that all 138 of the university's study abroad students in Israel are safe and secure. Daemen maintains a multifaceted communication network that includes the university's administration, our 25 partnering seminaries in Israel, and our externally collaborating partners. We are in immediate, constant, and ongoing communication with the leadership of the partner seminaries and the administrative branches of our educational partners. We are also in contact with various authorities, including the U.S. Department of State, for appropriate and timely guidance. Daemen is providing support to faculty, staff, and students who are impacted by this situation due to close connections to friends and family in regions in conflict.

I want to make clear that Daemen condemns violence of all kinds for whatever reason. The atrocities unfolding in Israel and the Gaza Strip are anathema to all of us and antithetical to Daemen's values.

Finally, Chief of Staff Amanda Gross will be leaving Daemen for an exciting leadership role in another organization as of November 1. The Chief of Staff is a confidential advisor and key aide to the President and a member of the university's senior leadership and, as such, serves as a member of the President's Cabinet. In her five years, Amanda has done much to help Daemen grow and prosper, conducting numerous national searches for senior leadership positions and serving as interim vice president of several areas. While we are all happy for her new career opportunity, we will all miss her. I hope you will join me on Friday, October 27<sup>th</sup> at 3:30 to celebrate her new position and wish her good luck in her future endeavors. More specific details ~~stand~~ perhaps at the formal opening of Daemen's Peace Garden tonight on Saffrin Public Square.

Cordially,

Gary A. Olson  
President