

2023



ALHANA

AFRICAN, LATINX, HISPANIC,  
ASIAN, AND NATIVE AMERICAN

GRADUATION CEREMONY

# ALHANA Planning Committee

Malik Albert  
Kaylyn Billups  
Anika Brabham  
Destiny East  
Ian James  
Heather Maclin  
Yolanda Morris

Irene Holohan-Moyer  
Jordan Printup  
Miguel Rodriguez  
Lamark Shaw  
Adriane Williams  
Karen Williams

2023



ALHANA

AFRICAN, LATINX, HISPANIC,  
ASIAN, AND NATIVE AMERICAN

THE GRADUATES

# Milka Ayalew



***Hometown:*** Rochester, NY

***Home Country :*** Ethiopia

***Degree Earned:*** BS in Health Promotion

***Plans after graduation***

I will be working at Jewish Family Services and going to graduate school

***Fondest memory from my time at Daemen***

The fondest moments of my life are those spent with my friends, creating cherished memories that will last a lifetime.

***Advice for Daemen students***

Believe in your abilities and let go of any self-doubt, for you have the power to achieve great things. Never let anyone or anything hold you back from pursuing your dreams. With perseverance and determination, you can reach the stars and accomplish everything you desire.

# Taymeir Bennett



***Hometown:*** New York, NY

***Degree Earned:*** BS in Business Administration - Marketing

***Plans after graduation***

Open own business and travel

***Fondest memory from my time at Daemen***

First coming to Daemen for orientation

***Advice for Daemen students***

Open your mind to new people and experiences

# Mike Bessen



***Hometown:*** Brooklyn, NY

***Degree Earned:*** BS in Health Promotion

***Plans after graduation***

Attending an accelerated nursing program with plans on becoming a nurse in the near future

***Fondest memory from my time at Daemen***

Having so much fun in Canavan Hall

***Advice for Daemen students***

I won't lie to you: college is going to turn your world upside down in both the best and worst ways possible. You will lose yourself and you will find yourself again. Never let the fear of failure inhibit you from doing what you know you actually want to do.

# Jameekia Blount



***Hometown:*** Brooklyn, NY

***Degree Earned:*** BS in Psychology

***Plans after graduation***

Work on event planning and design while going to school to get my degree in Marriage and Family Counseling.

***Fondest memory from my time at Daemen***

Creating my family away from home.

# Amanda Broadnax



***Home Country:*** USA

***Degree Earned:*** BS in Nursing

***Plans after graduation***

NP school

***Fondest memory from my time at Daemen***

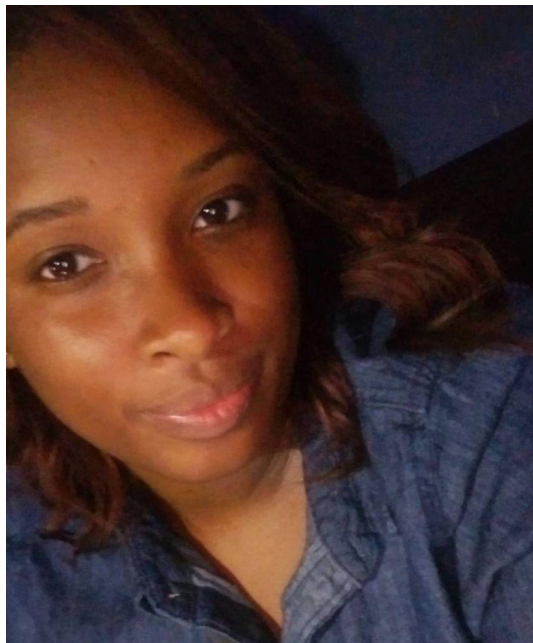
Group assignment were nice. Met some amazing people!

***Advice for Daemen students***

To keep pushing no matter what life throws at you.



# Lonje Cabey



***Hometown :*** Bronx, NY

***Degree Earned:*** MSW

## ***Plans after graduation***

To continue to service, advocate and support marginalized youth within the NYC Foster Care System.

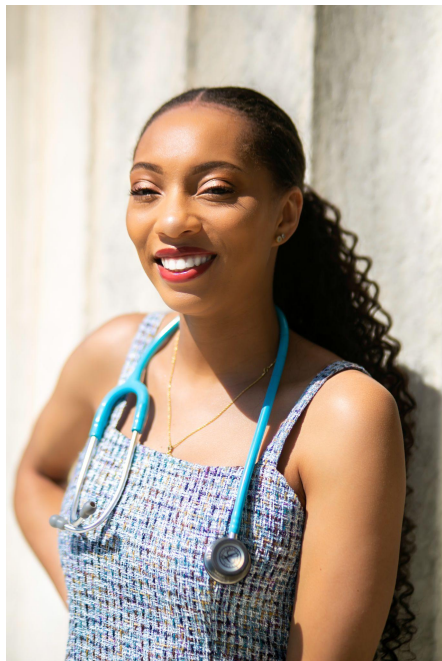
## ***Fondest memory from my time at Daemen***

Being a part of Arthur O. Eve Higher Education Opportunity Program. Building a connection with my cohort and other cohorts in the program, as well as connecting with various students and faculty on campus. Attending campus events and making memories that last a lifetime. Daemen will always be my second home that holds a special place in my heart.

## ***Advice for Daemen students***

Continue to follow your long term and short-term goals. It is vital to connect with peers and faculty to enhance your academic success. It is ok to seek for help when you need it and utilize office hours with your professors. The sky's the limit and Daemen faculty, your peers as well as your support systems will always be there to guide you no matter what.

# TylerMona Carpenter



***Hometown :*** Buffalo, NY

***Degree Earned:*** BS in Nursing

***Plans after graduation***

Continue working in my field.

***Fondest memory from my time at Daemen***

Being able to become alumni of Daemen University!

# Marielena Cruz



***Hometown:*** North Syracuse, NY

***Degree Earned:*** BFA in Animation

***Plans after graduation***

To work in animation industry and work as a creative individual

***Fondest memory from my time at Daemen***

The friends and connections I've made as well as all the lessons I've learned both academically and personally.

# Akayla Embry



**ALHANA**

AFRICAN, LATINX, HISPANIC,  
ASIAN, AND NATIVE AMERICAN

***Hometown :*** Los Angeles, California

***Degree Earned:*** BA in Psychology

***Fondest memory from my time at Daemen***

Spending time with my friends.

# Alina Estrella



***Hometown:*** Brooklyn, NY

***Degree Earned:*** BS in History & Political Science

***Plans after graduation***

Graduate School

***Fondest memory from my time at Daemen***

Making lifelong friends

***What advice would you like to share with Daemen students?***

Take the opportunity in college to try new things

# Eliana Marcela Falcon



**ALHANA**

AFRICAN, LATINX, HISPANIC,  
ASIAN, AND NATIVE AMERICAN

***Home Country:*** Columbia

***Degree Earned:*** Masters in Applied Behavior Science

***Plans after graduation***

Find a better job where I can continue learning and helping students.

***Fondest memory from my time at Daemen***

I enjoyed how much I learned from my professors and classmates.

***Advice for Daemen students***

It is important to be proud of where you are coming from.

# Johanna Ferrer



***Home Country:*** Dominican Republic

***Degree Earned:*** Masters in Behavior Science

***Plans after graduation***

ABA therapy with children with autism

***Fondest memory from my time at Daemen***

Learning from my professors and classmates via discussion post and zoom calls.

# Shyanne Howard



***Hometown:*** Ridgeway, Ohio

***Degree Earned:*** BS in Natural Science, Minor in Medical Humanities

***Plans after graduation***

To continue education at Daemen PT Graduate Program

***Fondest memory from my time at Daemen***

I have many fond memories but one in particular is at winter fest. My friends and I got to ride in horse drawn carriage drinking hot chocolate and enjoying each others company.

***Advice for Daemen students***

Never give up, even when it gets tough don't stop, keep persevering.



# Annika James



***Home Country:*** Jamaica

***Degree Earned:*** Masters in Business Administration

***Fondest memory from my time at Daemen***

The friends I have made.

# Kadiatou Kante



***Hometown:*** Bronx, NY

***Degree Earned:*** Bachelors in Social Work

***Plans after graduation***

I want to work and expand my education.

***Fondest memory from my time at Daemen***

Meeting new people, creating bonds, and networking.

***Advice for Daemen students***

Be yourself, never feel pressured by anyone, and work at your own pace.

# Laniyah Kenner



**ALHANA**

AFRICAN, LATINX, HISPANIC,  
ASIAN, AND NATIVE AMERICAN

***Hometown:*** New York, NY

***Degree Earned:*** BS in Early/Special Childhood Education

***Plans after graduation***

I will be working in my field.

# Cyril Khan



**ALHANA**

AFRICAN, LATINX, HISPANIC,  
ASIAN, AND NATIVE AMERICAN

***Hometown:*** Deer Park, NY

***Degree Earned:*** BS in Natural Science - Health Science

***Plans after graduation***

I would like to work as an Occupational therapist in rehabilitation facilities

***Fondest memory from my time at Daemen***

My fondest memories at Daemen are found when I am in the presence of the friends I was able to make here!

# Derrick Lemon



***Hometown:*** Baltimore, Maryland

***Degree Earned:*** BA in History and Political Science

***Plans after graduation***

Pursuing my Masters in Higher Education Administration at the University of Buffalo

***Fondest memory from my time at Daemen***

Spending countless nights up late in my friends apartment just chatting, laughing and enjoying each others company

# Danielle Massey



***Hometown:*** Buffalo, NY

***Degree Earned:*** BS in Nursing

***Plans after graduation***

Continue working and traveling

***Fondest memory from my time at Daemen***

I had a lot of fun completing a video presentation for my clinical.

***Advice for Daemen students***

Don't rush! No matter how long it takes you to complete your degree, do it at your own pace.

# Donovan Morris-Fisher



***Hometown:*** Bronx, NY

***Degree Earned:*** BS in Business Administration - Sports Management

***Plans after graduation***

I plan on securing a job in the sports field on any level and returning to my hometown.

***Fondest memory from my time at Daemen***

My fondest memory is walking in the fashion show my freshman year and attending the Buffalo Hall Of Fame my junior year.

***Advice for Daemen students***

My advice would be to take advantage of huge network of people you have being at smaller school. Also, We have a lot of time being at school, so try to do some work each weekday and cherish every moment because college experiences do not last forever. Find a balance between fun and building your future.

# Amanda Muniz



**ALHANA**

AFRICAN, LATINX, HISPANIC,  
ASIAN, AND NATIVE AMERICAN

***Hometown:*** Bronx, NY

***Degree Earned:*** BA in Psychology

***Plans after graduation***

Finish my Masters in Clinical Mental Health counseling

***Fondest memory from my time at Daemen***

Connecting with people from different places as well as getting to know my professors



# Akira Reid



***Hometown:*** Buffalo, NY

***Degree Earned:*** BS in Nursing

***Plans after graduation***

Attending NP school

***Fondest memory from my time at Daemen***

Participating in group projects

***Advice for Daemen students***

You can do anything you put your mind to!

# Dedra Robinson



***Hometown:*** Buffalo, NY

***Degree Earned:*** BS in Nursing

***Plans after graduation***

Pursue my NP

***Fondest memory from my time at Daemen***

The help of the instructors! I will never forget how welcoming and helpful they were!

***Advice for Daemen students***

You can do it! Set your goal! Write the plan then work the plan!

# Nia Ross



***Hometown:*** Batavia, NY

***Degree Earned:*** Masters of Social Work

***Plans after graduation***

Starting my career as a counselor

***Fondest memory from my time at Daemen***

Meeting my freshmen year roommates

***Advice for Daemen students***

Don't be afraid to get out of your comfort zone

# Sanjana Shaji



***Hometown:*** Hopewell Junction, NY

***Degree Earned:*** MBA Health Policy & Management

***Plans after graduation***

Full time job

***Fondest memory from my time at Daemen***

Meeting all the professors that I had and all my classmates on the first day.

# Ashley Tanyi



***Hometown:*** Buffalo, NY

***Degree Earned:*** Bachelors in Social Work

***Plans after graduation***

Move from Buffalo and find more opportunities

***Fondest memory from my time at Daemen***

Freshmen year of college & being apart of different organizations



# Jailyn Utley



***Hometown:*** Buffalo, NY

***Degree Earned:*** Masters in Social Work

***Plans after graduation***

Social worker in Buffalo Public Schools

***Fondest memory from my time at Daemen***

I will always appreciate my instructors. They are not only knowledgeable, but passionate about what they do. They really care about their students and want to see them grow into their best professional selves.

***Advice for Daemen students***

Take all the opportunities that come your way!

# Carlos Vargas



**ALHANA**

AFRICAN, LATINX, HISPANIC,  
ASIAN, AND NATIVE AMERICAN

***Hometown:*** Rochester, NY

***Degree Earned:*** BS in Natural Science-Health Science

***Plans after graduation***

Gain experience in my field

***Fondest memory from my time at Daemen***

Making memories with friends

***Advice for Daemen students***

Make time for fun while studying hard

# Hannah Villaroya



***Hometown:*** Kodiak, Alaska

***Home Country:*** Philippines

***Degree Earned:*** BS in Natural Science - Health Science/Physical Therapy

***Plans after graduation***

Work as a physical therapist

***Fondest memory from my time at Daemen***

Going on sunrise walk at Knox farm with my roommates Alice and Po

***Advice for Daemen students***

Get your work started EARLY! By doing so, you're really looking out for your future self



# Eman Wajed



***Hometown:*** Buffalo, NY

***Degree Earned:*** BS in Business Administration - Marketing

## ***Plans after graduation***

Working with Buffalo Niagara Medical Campus to better Buffalo's entrepreneurial community. Experience the wonders of life, read everyday, and eventually publish a book by the end of 2024. I will be pursuing my aspirations of being a public speaker for various topics while empowering and inspiring many people.

## ***Fondest memory from my time at Daemen***

One of my fondest memories is listening to my brothers of Underrated Evolution perform at Spring Fest. It was very inspiring and eye-opening. I love seeing people expressing their passions and pursuing them.

## ***Advice for Daemen students***

Smile! Everything works out for you. You do not know what tomorrow looks like, the past is history, and today is the present. The gift of the now, where you have 24 hours to do the best you can. Waking up everyday is a blessing and to realize that, all you can do is smile.

# Emily Weaver



***Hometown:*** Syracuse, NY

***Degree Earned:*** BS in Business Administration

***Plans after graduation***

Continue my journey at Daemen and pursue my MBA.

***Fondest memory from my time at Daemen***

My first spring fest.

***Advice for Daemen students***

Take in every moment and make yourself a familiar face.

# Kimberly Wiggins



***Hometown:*** Buffalo, NY

***Degree Earned:*** BA in Global and Local Sustainability

***Plans after graduation***

I will be finding a job in the non-profit sector in the areas of food and housing insecurity. I will also be joining Daemen's Leadership and Innovation graduate program.

***Fondest memory from my time at Daemen***

Hanging out with friends in the library while we crammed for finals, all of us stressed out of our minds but doing it together.

***Advice for Daemen students***

Nothing worth having comes easy; almost everything good in life requires some effort.