



For Immediate Release

February 18, 2009

Contact:

Philip J. Pantano

716-839-4000, ext. 341

**The Hamister Group, Inc. Appoints Director of Communications
*Philip J. Pantano joins healthcare, hospitality industry leader***

BUFFALO, NEW YORK – The Hamister Group, Inc., a leader in the healthcare and hospitality industries, today announced that Philip J. Pantano has joined the company as Director of Communications. He is responsible for all public relations and internal communications for the company and its portfolio of four healthcare facilities and ten hotels.

Pantano joins the company from Seneca Gaming Corporation, where he served as Director of Public Relations & Public Affairs and was the primary spokesperson for Seneca Gaming Corp., Seneca Niagara Casino & Hotel, Seneca Allegany Casino & Hotel and Seneca Buffalo Creek Casino. In his nearly four-year tenure with Seneca Gaming, Pantano directed all public and media relations activities for a number of high-profile construction projects, managed crisis communications and assisted company executives with various financial and legal communications. He also handled internal communications for the gaming company's more than 4,000 employees.

Pantano previously worked at e3communications, a full-service public relations and public affairs agency with offices in Buffalo and Albany, New York. A resident of South Buffalo, he is a graduate of St. Bonaventure University.

The Hamister Group, Inc. is a leader in healthcare and hotel management, with over 30 years of experience and a solid management portfolio in the eastern United States. The company has a proven record of superior management results and today employs nearly 1,000 co-workers at its facilities in New York, Pennsylvania, Tennessee and Kentucky. The hotels and healthcare businesses managed by The Hamister Group consistently achieve the highest honors in guest satisfaction and operations excellence. For more information, visit www.hamistergroup.com.