A banner year for Davenport athletics
A message from the President

Building Champions

Whenever I meet with leaders in business, technology and healthcare, we talk about the kind of graduates they wish to hire. It goes without saying that they expect new hires to have the necessary knowledge of their professions.

Employers desire more than just subject matter expertise, however. They want employees who demonstrate creative and critical thinking, ethical reasoning and action, and civic and social responsibility. They want people who will contribute to their organizations’ success through their ability to solve problems, effectively communicate, work in teams and demonstrate leadership.

All of these skills and more are taught as part of Davenport’s “Excellence System,” built into the curriculum for all students enrolled in Davenport’s Colleges of Business, Technology and Health Professions. In addition to what they learn in the classroom from faculty who have real world experience, DU students are encouraged to absorb all they can about their careers of choice through internships, job shadowing, academic competitions and other practical experiences.

Teamwork, communications, problem-solving and leadership also are instilled in students who participate in Davenport’s athletic programs and academic competitive teams. In the past year, Davenport students have excelled on these fronts, bringing home national championships in hockey, lacrosse and rugby, taking the Wolverine Hoosier Athletic Conference’s All Sports Trophy, and enjoying tremendous success at the national level in the Business Professionals of America (BPA) and DECA academic competitions.

After two years at Davenport, I am more excited than ever about the tremendous work being done by our students, faculty and staff to achieve our Vision 2015 goal of exceeding employers’ expectations. We are committed to helping students “Get where the world is going” and, at the same time, helping their future employers achieve success!

Sincerely,

Richard J. Pappas, Ed.D.
President
A banner year for Davenport athletics

Three national championships, five conference regular season championships and four conference tournament titles helped the Davenport Athletic Department to achieve its most successful season in its nine-year history. The season culminated with the school’s first-ever Wolverine Hoosier Athletic Conference (WHAC) All-Sports Trophy.

DU’s fall season got off to a wild start when Lizzie Paul, the freshman forward from England, scored nine goals and two assists to lead the women’s soccer team to a 16-0 victory over Holy Cross College (Ind.). The team went on to record a strong 9-4-4 record. The men’s soccer team, meanwhile, led by Carl Whitehouse, recorded its first-ever WHAC regular season title and advanced to the NAIA National Tournament for the first time in school history.

Basketball and hockey teams at DU brought excitement during the winter months, as all four (women’s and men’s basketball, D1 and D3 Hockey) came into the season highly ranked and ready to compete on the national level. Women’s
basketball head coach Mark Youngh and his Lady Panthers cruised to a perfect 30-0 regular season while capturing their fifth straight regular season WHAC crown and second consecutive tournament crown. The Lady Panthers continued their winning streak into the national tournament before losing a heartbreaker in the national championship game. The men’s basketball team, under the direction of third-year head coach Burt Paddock, made its second consecutive appearance at the National Tournament, advancing to the quarterfinals.

Paul Lowden and his American Collegiate Hockey Association (ACHA) D1 hockey team captured their fourth consecutive national championship and first at the D1 level. The title was assured following the highest of dramas as senior Jonathan Juliano scored the game-winning goal in overtime to defeat two-time defending champion Lindenwood University of St. Charles, Mo. Meanwhile, the ACHA D3 hockey team finished with a 31-14 record after going 2-1 in its national tournament.

As winter sports came to a close, the women's bowling team claimed its second straight American Heartland Conference championship under the direction of George Miller, who also saw his men's bowling team advance to the United States Bowling Congress (USBC) national team championships with a memorable run through sectionals. Also, the competitive cheer and dance squads each qualified for their respective national tournaments and had solid finishes in Daytona Beach, Fla. Davenport also received its first All-American plaque in track & field when junior Amy VanEns finished fourth in the high jump at the NAIA Indoor National Championships.
In the spring of 2011, Davenport University teams truly hit their stride. Head coach Ronda Varnesdeel led the softball team to its first-ever regular season conference crown and WHAC tournament title, qualifying for the NAIA National Tournament in Gulf Shores, Ala.

Rugby head coach Kruger VanBiljon led his Panthers to a remarkable run through USA Rugby’s Division I tournament, culminating in a 38-19 win over UC-Santa Barbara in the national title game played on the campus of Stanford University in Palo Alto, Calif. In route to the title, Davenport defeated major college programs including University of Minnesota, Kansas State and Ivy League member Harvard University.

The spring season concluded with the most dramatic finish as the men’s lacrosse team, led by head coach Bob Clarkson, earned its first national title by downing two-time defending champion St. Thomas in Denver, Colo. The win came on the heels of a thrilling four-overtime win over archrival Grand Valley State University in the semifinals.

At season’s end, the Male Athlete of the Year award was presented to senior Shawn Beer, who led the lacrosse team to its national title, while Kallie Benike, who led her basketball squad to the national championship game, earned the Female Athlete of the Year award. Beer, Benike and many others from DU gave their best to achieve the multiple team successes of 2010-11.

“This past athletic season was one for the record books,” said Director of Athletics, Paul Lowden. “Many of our coaches set goals to hang banners on the wall and we did just that with outstanding team and individual achievements. I could not be more proud to be a Panther than I am after the year we had.”

Clockwise: • Senior Heather Brusokas was named WHAC Player of the Year for DU Softball • Freshman Alex Blehm recorded the fastest time in the NAIA in the 400m run while capturing a WHAC Championship and Individual MVP honors in the conference. • The D1 rugby team defeated UC-Santa Barbara 38-19 to claim their first national championship. • The men’s lacrosse team defeated St. Thomas 14-9 to claim their first national championship. • The softball team won its first-ever WHAC Regular Season and Tournament Title while qualifying for the NAIA National Tournament in only their third season.
Congratulations to the class of 2011

A vast assembly of graduates in red and black blanketed the main floor of the Van Andel Arena in Grand Rapids on May 1. It was their moment, their time.

The 2011 Commencement ceremony honored more than 1,100 Davenport University grads whose faces reflected elation, pride, confidence and hope. Student speaker Cheri Vander Moren represented the resourcefulness and innovation of Davenport’s Class of 2011. Vander Moren took all of her courses online except for her capstone project, which was an internship.

“Continuing my education at Davenport University was the key to my career,” said Vander Moren.

The commencement address, given by Donald W. Maine, Chancellor Emeritus, honored each graduate’s journey and noted that “it doesn’t matter where you start, it only matters where you finish.” Hard work and encouragement brought this diverse, enthusiastic band of traditional and non-traditional students to the finish line, and nearly 8,000 supporters were there to celebrate with them.

Davenport University once again congratulates each graduate – and new alumni – for achieving this well-deserved milestone. Visit Davenport’s Flickr page to see more event photos online.

Visit Davenport’s Flickr page to see more event photos online.

Above: Cheri Vander Moren, MBA Strategic Management, speaks to her graduating class about the difference a Davenport degree makes.

Left: DU grad Zak Gonzalez is flanked by parents John and Pam.
It was their moment, their time.

Two generations; one commencement

Father and daughter Derek and Danielle Domin began their college journeys at different stages of their lives, yet walked across the same graduation stage together in May. Danielle achieved her bachelor’s degree in management from Davenport University directly after high school. Derek added to his associate’s degree from 20 years ago and achieved a bachelor’s degree in marketing from Davenport at age 43.

“We’re both excited to reach such a milestone,” said Derek. “Davenport made each of our goals possible because of their scheduling flexibility and online courses.”

Economic challenges over recent years prompted Derek to seek further education as a means of career reinvention. Obtaining his bachelor’s degree online made that possible.

“My new degree has opened up more horizons for me. I’m a stronger communicator for it,” added Derek enthusiastically. “I’ve been accepted to Davenport’s MBA program now and I’ll likely consider online courses again.”
Ron Draayer

Computer security is ever evolving and Ron Draayer is on it, recently passing a certification exam to become a global certified incident handler. Incident handling is the action or plan for dealing with intrusions, cyber-attacks, denial of service and other computer-related attacks. As an associate professor for Davenport University’s College of Technology for nearly 35 years, Draayer prepares students to protect organizations and businesses against the latest security risks. Draayer also is an associate business continuity professional, responsible for disaster recovery planning in the event of an emergency situation.

“With our current course and degree offerings, Davenport University is uniquely positioned to help students who wish to pursue a career in computer and network security and also assist organizations in the defense of their computer networks and information systems,” said Draayer.

Draayer received his bachelor of arts from Calvin College, his master’s of management from Aquinas College and his master’s of science in information systems management from Ferris State University. He’s been serving as one of DU’s Business Professionals of America (BPA) advisors for 30 years and is a current BPA National Board of Trustees member.

“Through BPA, students learn and develop their business skills, helping them see that if they work hard and apply themselves that they can achieve success and grow in their career.”

Deb Kiss

For more than 30 years, Davenport University’s Accounting/Finance Department Coordinator Deb Kiss has been sharing her knowledge and energy in abundance for the betterment of college and high school students, her community and profession. She’s a member of various national and statewide accounting associations, serves as an accounting curriculum advisor to local public school districts and has been a student club advisor for the Business Professionals of America (BPA) since 1986.

“My best moments at DU always involve working with students, whether it’s helping students understand and apply the concepts covered in class, learning from the vast experiences that students bring to the classroom, or sharing in their proud moments as they walk across the stage to accept their BPA awards or their DU diplomas,” said Kiss.

Three years after graduating from Aquinas College in 1978 with her Michigan teaching certificate, Kiss joined the faculty at DU as an accounting professor. Continuing her education, Kiss received her MBA from Grand Valley State University in 1984 and her Juris Doctorate from Thomas M. Cooley Law School in 1995. Kiss holds certifications as a public accountant, a management accountant and an internal auditor. Currently, Kiss is responsible for curriculum development, textbook selection, course assignments, scheduling, student advising, internships, assessment and program review within the Donald W. Maine College of Business.

With fellow advisor Ron Draayer, Kiss has helped lead Davenport’s BPA team to consistently high honors at both state and national competitions for more than 25 years. In 2011, DU’s BPA team earned eight first-place awards at the national level.

In 2003, Kiss initiated and coordinated Davenport’s involvement in the Internal Revenue Service-sponsored Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program, where accounting students and alumni prepare income taxes for the economically disadvantaged.
New Downtown Center hosts MBA open houses

Visitors from all over West Michigan toured Davenport’s new Downtown Center in Grand Rapids in June as part of a special three-day open house to promote Davenport’s MBA programs. On each of the three days, one excited visitor walked away with the key to a $1,000 MBA scholarship, while numerous other attendees received restaurant gift certificates and museum passes.

Beginning this fall, Davenport will be offering its MBA with concentrations in accounting, finance, health care and strategic management at the new facility.

While the radio station remotes promoting the event and the promise of a free lunch helped pack the people in, the Downtown Center itself and the MBA programs it will house were the true stars. Beginning this fall, Davenport will be offering its MBA in Health Care Management and its MBA in Strategic Management at the new facility, located at 45 Ottawa Ave. NW. Offered in a cohort format, the schedule and classes sizes of between 15 and 20 students will be conducive to small group interaction and individualized instruction.

Davenport is offering area employers customized MBA programs to better meet their downtown employees’ academic needs and schedules.

Please visit davenport.edu/mba for more information about how an MBA from Davenport University can help you “Get where the world is going!”

New website launches!

After more than a year of planning and development, the new www.davenport.edu is live!

Reflecting the University’s new branding, the site was created to provide prospective students all the information they need to make the right choice to “Get where the world is going.” The site also serves as the main information source to meet the needs of current students, faculty and staff, alumni and donors, and the communities Davenport serves.

Site visitors will benefit from improved ease of navigation, a wealth of information presented in brief, logical formats, and videos that bring Davenport’s many departments to life. The new site also serves as a gateway to the web home of the Davenport University Alumni Association at www.DUalum.com. We welcome your feedback and comments on the new site.

New Dean for College of Health Professions hired

After a thorough national search, Davenport University has named Karen M. Daley, Ph.D., R.N., as Dean of the College of Health Professions. Previously, Daley was Master of Science Graduate Coordinator in the Nursing Department at Western Connecticut State University (WCSU).

At WCSU, Daley led the expansion of the Master of Science in Nursing program, was a key participant in developing the new Doctorate of Education in Nursing degree and led curricula revisions which increased pass rates for the NCLEX examination from 56 to 96 percent.

Daley holds her Doctorate in Nursing from Rutgers University, her Master of Science in Nursing from Troy State University and her Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Villanova University.

We enthusiastically welcome her to Davenport and look forward to the innovations her leadership will bring.

davenport.edu
Experiential Learning projects serve students and our world

Under the leadership of numerous DU faculty members throughout our campuses statewide, there’s been a recent boom of projects available to students from our colleges of business, technology and health to apply their skills while improving the world around them. Such experiential learning projects among our college of business include paralegal students preparing estate planning documents for people in the Grand Rapids community, students partnering with Cooley Law School students at the Access to Justice Clinic and over 2,600 economically disadvantaged clients receiving tax return preparation services from DU students in the volunteer income tax assistance program. Projects within our college of technology include students learning about philanthropy and granting $4,500 to three Livonia area non-profits to help them build their technology infrastructure, and non-profit organizations and businesses enjoying websites designed by DU students. Some of DU’s nursing students even traveled to Cuba, assisting with provision of supplies and service while observing that country’s delivery of care.

The entire Davenport community is honored by the skills and service of students and faculty participating in experiential learning projects. Dr. Julia VanderMolen, School of Health Professions Faculty Member, Todd Terry, Faculty Member on the Holland Campus, Fran Jarvis, Faculty Member on the Warren Campus and Adrienne Lewis-Wagner, Faculty Member on the Lansing Campus, completed a year-long series of workshops led by Dr. Wayne Sneath, Program Director for Experiential Learning, preparing them to serve as faculty liaisons for experiential learning on their campuses. They join an existing group of faculty liaisons including Linda Haberaecker, Faculty Member on the Livonia Campus, Dr. Terri Tomaszek, Faculty Member on the W.A. Lettinga Campus and Tammy Stachowicz, Faculty Member on the Holland Campus.

Livonia Campus pays it forward to local non-profits

Technology students from the Livonia Campus, under the direction of Associate Professor Linda Haberaecker and College of Technology Coordinator Steve Boyak, learned more about the importance of philanthropy by participating in the Pay It Forward Grant Initiative. The grant, written by Dr. Wayne Sneath, Program Director for Experiential Learning, and awarded from Michigan Campus Compact, contributes charitable dollars to non-profit organizations strongly addressing immediate economic needs through technology.

Davenport students conducted a needs assessment to determine the technology needs for qualifying organizations, created a request for grant proposals, reviewed proposals submitted by participating organizations, and selected three that would receive a portion of $4,500 in grant funds. Selected organizations included Livonia Community Opportunity Center, Starfish Family Services and Redford Interfaith Relief.


The grant work was supported by Lu Cavenaugh, Director of Grant Development at Davenport University, and Alysia Green, Talent Development Manager for Automation Alley.
Alternative Spring Break program turns student focus inside out

Spring break 2011 was turned inside out by DU students in the Alternative Spring Break (ASB) program. They spent a week in East St. Louis, Illinois, putting others before themselves and seeing the world through a broader lens.

They fought urban poverty by preparing sandwiches and hand-delivering them to the homeless. They reorganized spaces at a home for battered women and children who were delighted with the larger play area that resulted. They also devoted time to children in two after-school programs providing tutoring and game activities.

For eight to 10 hours daily, students volunteered at six locations including a veteran’s homeless shelter, soup kitchen and thrift store. On the last day of the ASB trip, students travelled across the Mississippi River to St. Louis. While in Missouri, they visited a science museum, the Gateway to the West monument, and had dinner at the Hard Rock Café.

“It may have been only a week, but the students were able to establish amazing friendships among themselves and the people they worked with in East St. Louis,” said Benjamin Brewer, Student Government President and Site Leader. “The trip was a powerful experience!”

Student applications are accepted annually in October, and local service projects take place throughout the year.

BPA and DECA students emerge as leaders at national championships

DU’s Business Professionals of America (BPA) students once again took home top honors at both the state and national competitions, earning eight national first-place awards in 2011, including the Financial Analyst Team’s top finish for the third year in a row. A record-breaking 71 DU finalists landed in the top 10 for their respective competitions. Over the past three years, DU students have earned 23 first-place finishes — a BPA record — at the organization’s national competitions. More than 5,000 university students from 25 states competed in the National Leadership Conference in Washington, D.C.

Further south, 10 of 25 members of Davenport’s DECA team were Top 10 finalists following three arduous days of competition at the International Career and Development Conference in Orlando, Fla. Against students from universities from all 50 states, Canada and Puerto Rico, DU’s DECA team achieved its second consecutive national championship in business law.

DU congratulates its BPA and DECA teams and their commitment as future business leaders!

Davenport and Detroit Public Schools reach articulation agreement

Continuing its commitment to be responsive to student career needs, Davenport University has reached an articulation agreement with Detroit Public Schools (DPS). The agreement enables DPS students who complete Michigan’s high school graduation requirements to receive up to 23 general education credits toward their Davenport degree. Eligible students are invited to apply with Davenport this fall, continuing their education at any of Davenport’s campuses, including those in Warren and Livonia, or online.

Special tuition rates for SBAM and GRACC members

Members, employees and dependents of the Small Business Association of Michigan (SBAM) and the Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce (GRACC) have the opportunity to further their education at a reduced rate. The program offers 25 percent off tuition at Davenport University and waiving of the $25 application fee. SBAM has 10,000-plus members and is recognized as the only Michigan-based, state-wide association serving Michigan’s entrepreneurs. GRACC has 2,800 members and has been helping West Michigan businesses connect, grow and succeed for more than 120 years.
Creating competitive advantages for students are a primary focus at Davenport through its breakthrough academic instruction and leadership, diverse student life opportunities, top-notch support services and facilities, and scholarships. A significant source of scholarship funds is Davenport’s annual Excellence in Business (EIB) Dinner Gala and Awards.

This year’s event honored local business leader Jim Hackett, President and CEO of Steelcase Inc. About 700 guests attended the black tie fundraiser on Friday, May 6, when Hackett received the Peter C. Cook Excellence in Business Award for guiding Steelcase through turbulent times and championing the company’s support for numerous community initiatives. He played a key role in the founding of the tuition-free Grand Rapids University Preparatory Academy for 6th through 12th graders and lending Steelcase support to the West Michigan Center for Arts and Technology, part of a national network dedicated to continuing education.
Helen Hunt, Academy and Emmy Award winning actress, noted it was her honor to be keynote speaker for the celebration in its 13th year of raising scholarship funds for DU students in financial need.

The Excellence in Business Dinner was established in 1998 in honor of alumnus Peter C. Cook. Nearly $2 million has been raised to benefit Davenport University Foundation scholarships through these annual award galas. Previous award recipients include Peter C. Cook, Frederik Meijer, Richard M. DeVos, Wilbur A. Lettinga, David G. Frey, John Spoelhof, Robert L. Hooker, Betsy DeVos, Donald W. Maine, John C. Canepa, Fred P. Keller, Ambassador Peter F. Secchia, Doug DeVos and Steve Van Andel.
Donor Profile

Gerstacker Foundation gift supports the Rollin M. Gerstacker Library on the Midland Campus

When Carl Gerstacker was yet a teen, his father Rollin encouraged him to invest all of his savings in the Dow Chemical Company. After graduating from the University of Michigan’s College of Engineering, Carl began his career at Dow and, in 1960, became Chairman of the Board. By the 1970s, BusinessWeek recognized Carl as the “senior statesman of the chemical industry.” It would only seem natural that Carl’s generous support would recognize his father and ensure continued success for students long after his death.

Founded in 1957 by Carl’s mother, Mrs. Eda U. Gerstacker, in memory of her husband, the Rollin M. Gerstacker Foundation has supported many charities, with a special focus on education. The foundation has been a long-time supporter of Davenport University’s Midland Campus, located near Dow’s global headquarters. The Rollin M. Gerstacker Library on the Midland Campus serves as a significant resource to students and also is available for use by members of the community. In 2004, the Gerstacker Foundation contributed the lead gift to relocate and expand the library on campus.

Over the years, Davenport has maintained solid relationships with the trustees of the Gerstacker Foundation, particularly with E. Ned Brandt and Alan Ott. This past November, Davenport advancement officers approached the foundation about establishing an endowed fund to help ensure students will continue to have access to relevant, current library materials well into the future. In response, the Rollin M. Gerstacker Foundation made a generous gift of $100,000 to establish the endowed fund.

“Davenport has long been an asset to our community and workforce,” said Brandt. “As Dow became increasingly interested in adding diversity to its workforce, specifically chemists, the company turned to Davenport, previously Great Lakes Business College, to train their staff.”

“I helped acquire land for Davenport’s Saginaw Business Institute when it was first developed and I get to be part of the University’s continued growth to this day,” Ott added. “The Gerstacker Foundation supports education, and Davenport ties in directly with our mission and what we are trying to do by filling vital education needs in the areas of business, technology and health.”

Davenport is deeply grateful for the generosity of the Gerstacker Foundation and the difference their gift will make for students and their future employers.
Meet the face of Davenport’s Office of Advancement

When you step into Davenport’s Office of Advancement, the first face you are likely to see belongs to Julie Vugteveen. You are also likely to meet Julie at numerous alumni and donor events that she helps coordinate. Julie’s energetic personality and 15 years of professional experience made her a great addition to the University when she arrived in July 2010 as executive administrative assistant to Dennis Washington, Executive Vice President for Advancement.

Understanding the value of continuing education, Vugteveen is a current DU student. When she’s not on campus for her work or studies, Vugteveen enjoys spending time with her family and volunteering for the Special Olympics. Prior to joining DU, Vugteveen was a donor records specialist for the Spectrum Health Foundation, where she assisted with fundraising for the Helen DeVos Children’s Hospital.

Inspired by our shared history

So many individuals and organizations have grown through the positive connection they’ve shared with Davenport University over many years. We at DU are constantly improving because of these relationships. These connections tell of our shared history. DU archivists recently received various mementos reflecting these historical ties.

Dorothy Joy, a 1920 graduate from Detroit Business University, was proud of her education. It prepared her for a career with Detroit Public Schools and a joyful life of 94 years, including many summers spent at rental vacation properties she owned with her husband. Joy took great care of her education mementos and, in her honor, Joy’s family donated to the DU Archives her diploma, class picture, graduation program and an embossed leather wallet with the University emblem along with her bookkeeping certification card. These items are now properly stored to protect them and make them available for others to appreciate.

Carl Eschels graduated with a bachelor of accounts degree in 1939 from the Davenport McLachlan Institute. Tuition was $20 per semester and room and board were $3 per week. Carl recently donated a couple of items to DU Archives, including a commencement pin inscribed with his initials and “DMI 39” as well as a directory of students and faculty from the 1937-38 school year. Carl also took the time to type two pages of his Davenport memories, crediting the education he received at Davenport for his success as a Grand Rapids City Commissioner and as a local businessman who worked at Rapistan for nearly 40 years.

For decades, McCarty Communications did printing and public relations work for Davenport. After reading an article about the University Archives in the last issue of DU Review, Jim McCarty, son of the firm’s founder, was inspired to donate two scrapbooks filled with photographs, letters, press releases and more. The scrapbooks are an excellent documentation of events at Davenport during the early 1980s and testify to the relationship between McCarty Communications and this institution.

If you have keepsakes that document your days with Davenport, we welcome your contributions to our shared history. Please contact Jennifer Morrison, University Archivist, at 616/554-5664, ext. 6145 or jennifer.morrison@davenport.edu for further arrangements.

Memory Garden complete

The Fulton Street Memory Garden at the W.A. Lettinga Campus is now complete, commemorating leaders and donors who supported Davenport’s long-time home at Fulton Street in Downtown Grand Rapids. The move from the Fulton Street campus to the new campus in Caledonia was completed in June 2010.
Thank You

Davenport University Donors

Davenport University expresses its gratitude to the following individuals and organizations for their gifts to the University during the 2009-2010 and 2010-2011 fiscal years (July 1, 2009 – June 30, 2011). Italicized names indicate those committed donors who have supported the DU Foundation for the last five consecutive years or more. Donors are recognized by giving level as shown.

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Michael and Beth J. Clancy*
Comcast Spotlight
Cooks Drive In
Creston Robotics Boosters
Lynda and Sam Cribari*
Ilie and Snezana Crikovski*
DADDs Magic Bus, Inc.
Davenport University Alumni Association

Dr. Lonnie G. Decker*
John and Maureen Downer
Earle Press, Inc.
Gordon and Barb Elgersma
Scott and Susan Epstein*
Dunrite and Montmeka Filer*
Fishbeck Thompson Carr & Huber, Inc.
Al Forte
Founders Bank & Trust
Larry and Judy Fredricks
David and Judith Frey
The Gannett Foundation
Joy Gianakura*
Dennis and Patricia Giltz
GM Lansing Women’s Club
Godwin Hardware & Plumbing, Inc.
Grand Rapids Mortgage
Grand Rapids Plastics
Charles and Helen Harrison
Haworth, Inc.
Bradley Hineline
Holland Motor Homes & Bus Company
Earle and Kyle Irwin
James and Virginia Jurries
Gerrit and Jane Kamphouse
Kentwood Rental, Inc.
Kerkstra Precast, Inc.
Daryl and Dana Kingery*

Andy Kitchen
The Koff Foundation
Jack J. Koff
Arthur and Alberta Kuhn
Lacks Enterprises, Inc.
Lamar Construction Company
James and Marian Langeland
Scott Lemmon*
Michael and Constance Lettinga
Bruce and Deb Los
Stuart and Shelley Lowe*
Maple Hill Golf Course, Inc.
McDonald Plumbing, Inc.
McGraw Hill Companies
James and Nancy Meyer
Midstate Security
Brian and Megan Miller*
Matthew and Rachael Miller*
Gregory and Margaret Moceri
National City Corporation
Frank and Shelly Nowakowski*
Option 1 Credit Union
Pearson Education
Joyce Pann*
Paul and Marybeth Pieri-Smith*
Plante & Moran, PLLC
Larry Polsell*
Powell Relocation Group
Ramey’s Janitorial Service
Rapid Shred, LLC
Rhoades McKee
McCall Salmon*
Seif Chevrolet, Inc.
Alyn and Linda Stevens*
Mr. and Mrs. Michael J. Sleva*
Dr. Wayne Sneath and Dr. Kriss Ferluga*
Donald and Judy Strock
The Jerome P. Saban Foundation
Jerry and Judy Sabar
Subway Development
The Robert & Timothy Sullivan Scholarship Fund
Robert Sullivan
Sun Communities, Inc.
Jacqueline D. Taylor, Ph.D.
ThyssenKrupp Elevator Corporation
University of Michigan
Marjolijn van der Veldel*
Thomas VanDyken
P. Robert and Charlene Vanderson
Scott VanDyken
Michael VanGessel
Jill R. VanHill
Carl and Karen Whitehouse*
Kenneth Williams*
WOOTV 8
WTCM Radio - Traverse City
Victor and Shirley Zischke

Patterson Ice Center
Mark Peters
Todd and Lori Pits*
PNC Bank
Priority Health
Robert W. Baird & Company
The John & Judy Spoelhof Foundation
John and Judy Spoelhof
Robert and Jane Ungrey*
Warner Norcross & Judd
Bauel and Mary Warner
Dennis C. Washington*
George and Karen Wissat*
The Wolverine World Wide Foundation
Wolverine World Wide
Thomas Woods*
Edward and Kathy Aboufadel*
Steven and Robin Axorder
Dixie and Merle Barnaby
Helen P. Basso
Laura Baylis
Denny and Jaye Lynn Berger*
Michael and Jo Ann Bigford
Mark and Wynelle Brawman
Frank and Patricia Brechtb
Pamela Brix
Debra Broomsem*
Brooks Capital Management, LLC
Donna L. Burns
Butterball Farms, Inc.
Campbell-Ewald Company
Mary L. Cavenaugh*
Citizens Bank
Kent Clark
Robert and Mary Clarkson*
Robert Cole
Barbara Craft and John Otterbacher*
Linda G. Crosby*
Mark and Katherine Daniels
Paul Davis
DHS Associates
Brian and Sherri Donovan*
Greg Duggins
Jessica Edwards*
Nicholas Kraska*
Kristy Nelson*
Robert Shubitowski*
Ms. Susan F. Slajus*
Brent and Diane Slay
Tereson M. Start
John Stein*
Scott Stevens*
Storytelling Pictures
Tim Stouffer*
StudioCraft
Mary Sullivan
Ann Swanson
Daniel Swartzinski*
Dr. Therese Tomaszek*
Dr. Luis A. Tomatis
Marvin and Virginia Vander Wall
Volkswagen of America, Inc.
Alan Walczak*
Kelly and Bob Wandel*
Shelly and Warren Westbrook
Western Michigan Group
Amy Wilkins
Jennifer Wilson
Kenneth and Carole Yerrick
Mark and Amber Young*
Richard and Louise Zeafl
Brad and LaCrissa Zuraw*

Jeffrey Adkinson
Kristine Anderson*
Jean M. Baker*
Paul J. Ballard*
David Barnes*
Lachlan and Janice Beatson
James and Mary Becsey*
Donald S. Berg
Ronald and Mary Berg*
Fred Bergsm
Scott Bernecker
Randolph C. Black
Thomas and Carna Brown*
Captain Sundae
Theresa Carden-Weiss*
Michael G. Care
Amy Cartwright
Barry Chapman*
Eric Cole
Lyle and Madelyn Converse
Colleen Coughlin*
Jerry and April Cox
Anne T. Craner*
Dawn M. England*
Ronald E. Falk*
Fifth Third Foundation Office
Folkert Enterprise
Forest River, Inc.
Donna Freddolino*
Max and Gail Gibbard*
Grand Rapids Community College
Randall and Paula Grubius
Dr. Donald L. Gusta
Linda Habeneck*
Arthur and Betsy Hase
Haviland Enterprises
Dr. Kenneth K. Ho
John Hume*
Irwin Seating Company
Frances Jarvis*
Paul Jendrasik
Aphrodite Jones*
Robin Lee Kauffman*
Randy Smolenski & Deb Kiss*
David and Nancy Kistler
Michael Kolacz*
Joseph Lamontagne*
Matthew Lindgren
Lois L. Lindauer Searches
James and Marie Loughran*
Jacqueline Loreii*
Paul and Lisa Lowden*
Jean M. Luoma, M.A.T.*
Richard and Kathryn McNamara
Michigan State University College of Human Medicine
Donna K. Millham*
Scott Miller
Gregory and Wilma Mitchell*
Model Coverall Service, Inc.
Charmayne Mulligan*
Norton Norris, Inc.
Rich and Lisa O’Donovan*
Olivier VanDyk Insurance
Judith and Steven Penning
Diane Perry
Kerry Prentice*
Dale and Terry Prondzinski*
Kojo Quartey*
Shawn W. Raymond*
Bruce Rentz*
Peter and Patricia Renucci
Linda Rinker*
Frank and Sue Roder*
Rogers Printing
Saginaw County Sports Hall of Fame
Waldenmar Schweigert
Gwendolyn Scay*
Richard and Mary Shirey

Ruth E. Henderson
Frederick W. Hoffman
Kipp and Kathy Hofmeyer
Marie Hojey*
Holiday Inn
Nadia Hoover*
Heather Horst*
Alleen and Barbara Hurston*
Imperial Leasing, Inc.
Amanda and Jonathan Jakubowski*
Frank T. Jasper-Stump*
David & Melanie Kauffman Family*
John and Charlotte Keegana
Harris and Beth Kieckover
Betty J. Kingma
Stuart and Elizabeth Kingma
Dick and Tania Klant
Ronald J. Klein
Heather K. Knechtel*
Ronald Kopp
Allen D. Kozlowski
Thomas A. Kraal
Nicholas Kraula*
Sally K. Kuipers*
Amanda Kula*
Wilson and Elizabeth Labadie*
Mark and Lori LaCroix
Brenda F. Lauer*
Elizabeth Le*
Linda Leach*
William and Diana Less*
Timothy and Kimberley Long
Bill MacKay
Jason and Jennifer Madden*
Lawrence and Gwen Mac*
Colleen Maire
Daryl Cliff and Diane Manko-Cliff*
Christopher L. Marx*
Randall and Janet Macshke*
Jesse Medina*
Frank and Susan Merlotti
Daniel and Tawn Meyerbolt*
Andy and Julie Milanowski*
Matthew and Wendy Morrow
Donald and Lori Murphy
Kristy Nelson*

Opportunity Builder’s Circle
Discussions at Davenport premiere with advice on being an “in-demand” employee

Helping people maximize their potential is the focus of ReExamine Life, a coaching and consulting company led by DU alumnus Bill Van Steenis, DCB ’83. Van Steenis was the premiere speaker for Discussions at Davenport, a new speaker program, which began in March. His presentation offered practical, direct advice from his new book, In Demand—How to Get Hired, Develop a Career and Always be Successful.

Fellow DU alumni, faculty, students and staff filled the Wilbur and Sharon Lettinga Auditorium at the new Robert W. Sneden Center at Davenport’s W.A. Lettinga Campus in Grand Rapids to get tips on planning and executing a successful job search strategy and career plan. Van Steenis shared proven methods to help college students and business professionals maximize their potential without compromising time with family and friends, integrity or good health. Other tips included how to be an in-demand job candidate and how to remain an in-demand employee. Van Steenis reminded attendees that employers hire employees who can solve their business problems, not the other way around. Be sure to let employers know what you can do for them.

Van Steenis shared proven methods to help college students and business professionals maximize their potential without compromising time with family and friends, integrity or good health.

Van Steenis’ books and advice relay his insights from more than two decades running a successful executive search business. New DU graduates were given a copy of his latest book as a gift from The Davenport University Alumni Association. Visit www.reexaminelife.com for more details on Van Steenis’ book and business.

Discussions at Davenport was created to provide students with exposure to top executives and successful entrepreneurs in business, technology and health professions. If you have a presentation you would like to share with the Davenport community, please email alumni@davenport.edu.
Make a Living; Make a Life; Make a Contribution

When I started at Davenport University last year, it didn’t take me long to select the quote I wanted to use in my email signature. I began my first day at Davenport by reading History of an Institution, authored by Peggy Sneden Moceri. In the book’s introduction I read:

Davenport . . . is an institution in more than the academic sense; it is a community institution, one that has contributed more to the ongoing business environment of Grand Rapids and West Michigan than any other single entity. It is an institution nearly as old as the city itself. It has survived every major adversity the nation has experienced since its post-Civil War beginnings, and has prospered when similar institutions were failing by the dozens. Its record of success is a tribute to visionary leadership, responsiveness to the dynamics of economic, social, and political change, and most of all, adherence to an abiding premise: “Make a Living; Make a Life; Make a Contribution.” Around this simple but eloquent motto, M.E. Davenport shaped a college.

Mr. Davenport’s personal creed has provided the direction for the college’s ongoing commitment to training, improvement, and personal enrichment. A person’s ability to “make a life,” M.E. Davenport insisted, depended first upon his or her ability to make a living. The synthesis of the two prepared a person to make a contribution.

I chose M.E. Davenport’s “eloquent motto” to be part of my email signature and now, whenever I send an email, I am reminded of the mission I support here at Davenport. While much about the University has changed since then, I believe this motto still provides direction for all of us today.

Make a Living — Choose your path. Educate yourself so you can achieve your best and sustain an enriching life for yourself and those you love. Believe that what you do matters to others and know that it matters to you.

Make a Life — Have a vision, plan for change, take the next step and share your success in personal and professional affairs. LIVE your LIFE! Enjoy the world around you and make your mark on it.

Make a Contribution — Use your education, your skills, your experience, your challenges and your successes to do something for someone else. Extend your time and financial resources beyond yourself and your immediate family.

At Davenport, you are well educated to make a living. Through Davenport, you can use your education and skills to make a life. To Davenport, you can make a contribution. Every time you think about what your education means to you, think about someone else who is waiting for that same opportunity. What can you share with your alma mater?

• Be a speaker in the classroom.
• Serve as a mentor to a student.
• Provide an internship to an aspiring professional.
• Make phone calls to students from your high school who are considering DU.
• Volunteer on an advisory board or a committee.
• Make a gift to scholarships so others can enjoy a DU education.
• Attend an event on your local campus and share your story.

Davenport University can help prepare you to “Make a Living; Make a Life; Make a Contribution.” The rest is up to you!

Catherine G. Rogg
Director of Alumni Relations

Join us in creating change for scholarships

Even the smallest pebble will create ripples that travel far when striking the water. Similarly, even modest monetary gifts to DU can create long-ranging change for students who rely on scholarships.

• Nearly 95 percent of all current Davenport University students receive some form of financial aid — including scholarships — to help fund their education and achieve their career dreams.
• Davenport invites you to create change and contribute toward scholarship support, making it possible for determined students to afford college.

• Every student matters, so every gift matters, whether it’s $20.11, $201.10 or $2,011.

Consider honoring your graduation year with a monetary gift and watch the pebbles of change make a difference in our world and in the life of a DU student.

Please note your class year in the “Gift Purpose” box when making your contribution online at davenport.edu/classgift.
DU at the Zoo heads to Battle Creek

More than 140 alumni, students, staff and friends attended the DU at the Zoo family alumni event in June at Binder Park Zoo. Guests began the afternoon with a barbecue picnic held at the zoo’s Maple Pavilion. Children were treated to face painting by the DU cheer team, arts and crafts, and a zoo goodie bag complete with DU sunscreen! After lunch, alumni and friends enjoyed a beautiful, sunny afternoon touring the zoo. Thanks to everyone who traveled from far and wide to join their fellow Panthers for the day.

Upcoming alumni events

25th Annual Davenport Scholarship Golf Classic | Aug. 22, 11 a.m. – 7 p.m. Egypt Valley Country Club
Young Alumni Speed Networking | Sept. 13, 6-8 p.m. Victory Café, DU Student Center
Family Weekend Fall Crawl 5k Fun Run/Walk | Sept. 24, 9 a.m. W.A Lettinga Campus
Young Alumni Social Mixer at Twisted Rooster | Oct. 13, 6-8 p.m.
Homecoming Weekend | Nov. 11-12
Alumni Awards Banquet | Nov. 12

Visit www.DUalum.com for more details and to register online.

Downtown Center hosts alumni and Troll for Trout

More than 50 alumni, staff and friends toured Davenport’s new Downtown Center in Grand Rapids, checking out the new digs for Davenport’s MBA programs while digging the folk-rock entertainment provided by Troll for Trout, a long-time Michigan favorite based in Grand Rapids.

Alumni reception includes Bodies Revealed exhibit

In April, more than 40 alumni and students gathered for a reception at the Grand Rapids Public Museum and an opportunity to view the Bodies Revealed exhibit. College of Health Professions students also attended to view the exhibit and network with alumni board members and graduates.
Davenport friend passed away

Our heartfelt condolences go out to the family of Wilbur and Sharon Lettinga, whose son Mike passed away unexpectedly on Sunday, Aug. 7 after a prolonged illness. Mike, 44, was CFO at Kentland Corporation, served on numerous boards and, with his wife Connie, helped raise funds for many organizations, including Davenport University. He attended Davenport in 1986 and 1987.

Wilbur A. Lettinga is the namesake of Davenport’s campus in Grand Rapids and, with his wife Sharon, of the auditorium in the Robert W. Sneden Center. Wilbur (’55) is a member of Davenport’s Board of Trustees, former Chairman of the board, and past recipient of the Peter C. Cook Excellence in Business Award. Mike also is survived by his brother Bill Lettinga (’78), Vice Chairman of Davenport’s Foundation Board, and sisters Melissa Lettinga and Cynde Lettinga-Damstra (’83).

Professional

Ruben Juarez, ’00 BAS Management, is the owner of Workforce Management, a niche placement service providing minorities with temporary work. The company received the Minority Business of the Year Award from the Holland Area Chamber of Commerce. Within the last year, Workforce Management has opened two new offices in Ludington and Wyoming, while the headquarters is located in Holland, Mich.

Ophelia Stradwick, ’00 BBA Health Services Administration, was recognized as the first employee of HealthPlus of Michigan to reach 30 years of service for the 32-year-old company. Stradwick has diligently worked toward continuous advancement within the company to her current role as claims specialist.

Beth Brehm, ’01 MBA, has been appointed administrator for Borgess Gardens in Kalamazoo. She previously worked in the same capacity for Liberty Healthcare Services, a for-profit skilled nursing and assisted living facility in Benson, N.C., and has 20 years of administrative and managerial experience in health care facilities.

Robin Cole, ’01 MBA, has been running the only African American-owned HMO in the state of Michigan, ProCare Health Plan, Inc., for 15 years. The company provides health care services for more than 10,000 underinsured and indigent residents within Wayne County.

Carrie Kosac, ’03 BBA Accounting and Management, has been promoted to Assistant Vice President at 1st Source Bank in South Bend, Ind.

Kylee Mitchell, ’03 BBA Finance, has accepted a new position with The Detroit and Southeast Michigan Fund for Innovative Workforce Solutions as a Program Officer.

Ryan Blackmer, ’06 ABA Computer Science, Air Force Airman 1st Class graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas.

Paul Cahill, ’06 ABA Management, has joined The Technology Pool as manager of sales and marketing.

Dan Barnett, ’08 BAS Computer Information Systems, has accepted a new position as an application developer with Two Men and a Truck. He helps develop and maintain web and client server applications.

Karie Powers, ’10 BBA Finance, has joined Kellogg Community Federal Credit Union as branch manager for the B Drive North location in Battle Creek.

Marriages & Engagements


Keep in touch!

Recently married or have a new baby? Promotion at work or a new job?

Please keep your alumni records updated and share any news with your fellow alumni. Email us at alumni@davenport.edu (be sure to include your full name, class year, major and location you attended) or log on to www.davenport.edu/alumclassnotes.
Save the date for Homecoming!

Nov 11 & 12

Davenport University invites you to attend Homecoming Weekend and share your school pride with fellow alumni.

Friday, November 11, 2011
- Hockey game at Patterson Ice Arena

Saturday, November 12, 2011
- W.A. Lettinga Campus Tours
- Family Fun Day
- Alumni Awards Banquet

For more information and to register online, visit DUALum.com