Stories about growth, ingenuity and promise at Davenport University
Table of Contents

05
University News
News from around the University

10
Giving
Get to know our donors and why they choose to give to DU

11
Faculty
Get departmental updates and latest news

16
Students
See what our students have been up to and meet our scholarship award recipients

38
Alumni
Save the date for alumni events and catch up with old classmates

20
Celebrating 150 Years at Davenport University
Plans for the Sesquicentennial and how you can get involved

24
Scholarship Designed for Innovators & Student Recipient Interview

28
Pioneering Partnership with the Department of Defense

Have something to add? Share your thoughts and images on one of our social media platforms.
The New Wave of Innovation

Rebound for King

ON THE COVER Then & Now: Davenport McLachlan Institute in 1949 to the W.A. Lettinga Campus today.
A TRANSFORMATION THROUGH INNOVATION

Regular readers of DU Review will likely notice a new design for this issue and a new approach by focusing on a particular theme—Innovation. A quick Google search reveals that innovation is to create “a new method, idea or product.” It is about transformation, change or breakthrough.

That description applies to this publication, since our communication has been redesigned to have a greater impact with alumni and other key audiences. Through our quality initiatives over the past six years, this entire institution has demonstrated innovation. Few institutions of higher education are pursuing the type of transformation we are creating at Davenport, and few are achieving the types of growth in student outcomes that we are seeing, including improved retention and a graduation rate that has more than doubled since 2009.

Davenport is one of the first colleges or universities in the nation to announce an employment guarantee and among the first to introduce competency-based degree programs. Our College of Urban Education is transforming how teachers are prepared for service in urban school districts, with initial results indicating a measurable improvement in the positive impact our candidates are having on their students.

We are proud of the innovations we can bring to higher education. We are proud of the Honor Roll recognition we received from Michigan Performance Excellence and the fact that Davenport is the first four-year institution ever to be recognized by this award program. We are on a path of innovation and transformation that will soon become an example for other institutions of higher learning. We thank you for your continued support on this journey!

Sincerely,

Richard J. Pappas, Ed.D.
President

“Davenport is one of the first colleges or universities in the nation to announce an employment guarantee and among the first to introduce competency-based degree programs.”
Honoring MLK, Jr.’s Legacy

Davenport celebrated the work of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. through a variety of events at campuses across the state. The Holland Campus hosted an MLK Scavenger Hunt, organized by Tammy Stachowicz and Tay Ramirez, which challenged participants to partake in random acts of kindness, such as volunteering or bringing a treat to work.

The Livonia and Warren campuses participated in the 30th Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Peace Walk, and Warren sponsored the MLK Celebration for Macomb County. According to employee Jessica Cheriez, the Peace Walk was “important to support our community and shows thanks for all that Martin Luther King Jr. fought for.

We are all people who deserve equality and peace.” This event gave participants a sense of empathy towards those who marched from Selma to Montgomery, Ala., and gave students, faculty and staff the opportunity to talk about issues related to diversity, equity and inclusion.
The *Lansing Campus* hosted a variety of events, including the 31st Annual Celebration Luncheon in memory of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. with keynote speaker, Andrew Young, the first African-American to be elected to Congress from the “Deep South” since Reconstruction. The Lansing Campus also streamed the videos “A Historical Perspective” and “STAND (What Do You Stand For?)”.

The *W.A. Lettinga Campus* in Grand Rapids hosted its annual MLK, Jr. Day Celebration and Silent March. Davenport’s celebration of King’s legacy included the “Arousing the Conscience of a Community” event, featuring speaker Touré, a distinguished face in the world of music and pop-culture reporting. The event was sponsored by Davenport University’s Alpha League Global Leadership program and the Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. Touré taught students, faculty and staff that we must find “revolutionary love in our hearts” for those of all backgrounds in order to enact the change we wish to see. This event highlighted King’s work during the Civil Rights Movement and his lesser known Poor People’s Campaign, which showcased economic injustice for all races in America and stressed that his teachings must not be forgotten, for they are very much needed in society today.

On January 18, the W.A. Lettinga Campus welcomed keynote speaker, Stephen R. Drew, Senior Partner in the firm of Drew, Cooper & Anding in Grand Rapids. Drew specializes in personal injury law, civil rights and employment law, with an emphasis on racial and sexual harassment, discrimination and police misconduct. Drew reflected upon his experiences growing up during the civil rights era and challenged the audience to think about what Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. would think about society today—in a racial, social and economic context. Davenport student Justice Postman asked the DU community that same question and created a video which was shared during the event.

A Silent March was held at the conclusion of the event. According to Director of Student Life, Natalie Wagner, “The event symbolizes that we can come together as a community and stand for a common purpose. Dr. King demonstrated that nonviolent activism is important and powerful. He once said, ‘Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.’ Dr. King gave his life fighting for civil rights and social justice. To continue the work that he started, it is critical that each of us continue to be a voice for those that are silenced.”

After the event, the campus hosted the annual MLK Day of Service Project, which gave students, staff and faculty the opportunity to participate in a service project at the David D. Hunting YMCA in downtown Grand Rapids through volunteering to make crafts and socializing with young children in the community that use the YMCA.

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Thank you to the students representing many DU campuses and online that participated in this year’s MLK Day Essay Contest. The contest was a part of the speakers, service projects and initiatives planned around the state to honor Martin Luther King, Jr.

This was the fourth year of the contest and participants were asked to respond to this question:

**An individual has not started living fully until they can rise above the narrow confines of individualistic concerns to the broader concerns of humanity ... Every person must decide at some point, whether they will walk in the light of creative altruism or in the darkness of destructive selfishness. This is the judgment. Life's most persistent and urgent question is, “What are you doing for others?”**

— Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., “Conquering Self-Centeredness,” Alabama, on August 11, 1957

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1st Place ($1,500)

Brad Lawson  
*W.A. Lettinga Campus*

2nd Place ($1,000)

Ryan Elmore  
*Holland Campus*

3rd Place ($500)

Bryant Robertson  
*Warren Campus*

Honorable Mention ($250 each)

Irma Garcia-Murillo  
*Holland Campus*

Doris Littles  
*W.A. Lettinga Campus*

Joel Mattfolk  
*W.A. Lettinga Campus*

Donel Nave  
*Warren Campus*
Davenport Panthers Accepted into Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference

Davenport University accepted an invitation to become a member of the Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (GLIAC), with plans to compete on a provisional basis beginning the 2017-18 academic year. Davenport’s participation in the GLIAC is contingent upon acceptance into the NCAA Division II membership program, which should occur by July.

“We have worked diligently to build an athletic program that would be competitive at this level, and we look forward to the many ways this will benefit our students, this institution and other GLIAC member schools,” said Dr. Rick Pappas. “We have enjoyed our previous affiliation with the NAIA and the rivalries with the WHAC. We look forward to the new challenges and new rivalries as a member of GLIAC.”

Purdue University Calumet was also accepted, bringing the conference to 12 full-time members starting with the 2017-18 academic year. For 2016-17, Davenport will continue its affiliation with the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference (WHAC) of the NAIA. DU’s sports portfolio includes 20 NAIA varsity programs, including its football team, which will begin intercollegiate competition for the first time this fall, plus another 13 programs participating in non-varsity sports. Davenport has won the WHAC All-Sports trophy the past five years and celebrated its first NAIA national championship in men’s soccer in 2014.

“It has been fulfilling and gratifying to experience the growth in DU Athletics over the past 14 years,” said Paul Lowden, Athletic Director. “It has been a long-standing vision for Davenport to develop our programs to meet NCAA Division II standards. Our administration, coaches and student-athletes are prepared to demonstrate that Davenport will be a model NCAA Division II institution and a successful member of GLIAC.”
Davenport University Earns Honor Roll Recognition from Michigan Performance Excellence Program

Davenport University has achieved Honor Roll recognition from Michigan Performance Excellence following a December site visit by the program’s examiners.

“The Michigan Performance Excellence Award is the first step in the process to apply for the national Baldrige Award, which we have set as a goal for Davenport,” said Dr. Rick Pappas, President. “We received valuable feedback from the examiners that will help us work on areas of opportunity as we prepare for another application, likely in 2017. Our participation in this award process isn’t about recognition; it’s about the feedback we receive that will help us continually improve for our students, their future employers and our broader community.”

“Davenport University is the first four-year college ever to be recognized by the Michigan Performance Excellence program. Since it began in 1994, the Michigan Performance Excellence Award has only been earned by a higher education institution once, Grand Rapids Community College (GRCC) in 2007. GRCC also is the only college or university ever to earn Honor Roll recognition from Michigan Performance Excellence.”

“We received high marks in areas related to strategy and our customer, which tells us that we’re moving in the right direction. There certainly are areas where we can improve, and this feedback will help us continue to make progress,” said Dr. Pappas. “Through Vision 2020, our five-year strategic plan, we continue to improve upon student outcomes like our graduation rate, which already has more than doubled since 2009. We are raising the bar for ourselves each and every year, and this Honor Roll recognition is a strong testament to the value of the work we are doing.”

Earning the state quality award recognizes Davenport’s commitment to continuous improvement. Quality Excellence is often found within the manufacturing and healthcare sectors but is not as broadly embraced in higher education. Davenport believes institutions can be held accountable for the quality and strength of the education provided to students.
Starting this fall, the College of Technology is adding a new delivery approach to its successful Master of Science in Technology Management. With this platform, students are given a predetermined schedule in a cohort format that leads to completion in 12 months.

The Master of Science in Technology Management blends business, technology leadership and innovation, and project management skills into a single degree. This program serves as an important fulcrum for those who wish to strategically ensure their professional relevance in order to change careers or amplify an already strong skillset for an employer.

Dr. Pamela Imperato, Dean of the College of Technology, indicates that “Our students include those with a background in computer technology as well as seasoned business professionals looking to gain more knowledge in the technologically infused space that is today’s business environment. This program combines a set of business and technical competencies that will give Davenport University graduates the competitive advantages needed to lead information technology departments in the global economy.”

In October, Davenport University and the Michigan Council of Women in Technology (MCWT) sponsored a training in preparation for its annual Website Design Competition. Hosted at the Livonia Campus, 20 young women built websites with the theme of “Food, Glorious Food!” The women worked to develop websites that illustrated foods or meals that they liked. This included food groups, favorite recipes, favorite meals, interesting recipe ingredients, favorite fast foods or favorite ethnic foods.

The training day helped attendees prepare for the website competition by teaching them web design skills such as HTML, CSS, web design software, FTP and more. Gabriela Ziegler, Department Chair–Computer Information Science, added, “Technology is not a boy’s game, it’s not a girl’s game. It’s everyone’s game. It’s about where we are and where we’re going.”
MEET OUR DONORS

Thanks to donors like you, our first week of giving #DU150 raised more than $12,000.

“As a Davenport University Foundation Board Member and business owner, I support DU because it is an investment in the future success of students. My matching gift to the #DU150 Founder’s Week of Giving Challenge helps to fund the Founder’s Endowed Scholarship forever. I am proud to say that I not only feel I am making an impact in students’ lives now, but for years to come.”

MEG GOEBEL
President, Paul Goebel Group

“As a 2015 graduate of DU, I wanted to give back personally because I know how important scholarship support is for a student’s success. I was honored to support the #DU150 Founder’s Week of Giving Challenge to continue paying it forward by helping other students achieve their goal just as I have.”

MCKENZIE MCINTIRE ’15

Get involved like Meg and McKenzie at davenport.edu/give
PHYSICAL THERAPY PROGRAM TAKES SHAPE

To keep up with the ever-changing world of healthcare, Davenport University’s College of Health Professions created the new Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) program, a post-baccalaureate program for aspiring physical therapists beginning in January 2017.

This innovative program not only focuses on healthcare and patient treatment but also on the technological and business aspects of physical therapy and prepares students to not only be practicing physical therapists but gives them the knowledge and resources to open their own private practice if they wish to do so. Upon graduation, students will have a Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) degree and a graduate certificate in Healthcare Management.

Dr. Sue Klappa, Ph.D., PT, and the Founding Chair of the program, wants students to learn that physical therapy “should be more than a job,” and she conveys this message through the DU STAIR values of Service, Trustworthiness, Accountability, Innovation and Creativity and Respect for People. These values create a holistic way of teaching that focuses on patient-centered care and collaboration in the workplace with other health professionals in order to create the best experience and care for the patient.

Students will learn much more than patient care in the program. Students will engage in analyzing evidence in literature to be good consumers of research, and they will be involved in faculty-led or student-developed research projects that will contribute to the body of knowledge in the physical therapy field. These projects will encourage collaborative communication, which helps students prepare for the workplace by giving them the knowledge and skills to communicate with medical professionals in a way that best benefits the patients they serve. In addition to research, students will be able to use the nursing simulation lab, which replicates a multi-bed hospital with simulated adult and child patients, to further their learning and prepare them for the workplace. For their capstone course, students have the opportunity to explore a niche area of practice that is related to physical therapy, such as women's health, spinal cord injury or amputee care, in order to give them a broader knowledge of the field, as well as giving students the opportunity to explore a form of care that interests them.

The program places a strong emphasis on community engagement through which students will use problem and team-based learning to serve their community. Students will review real patient cases, participate in clinical learning in the community and serve patients in the area. Students also may travel to the Dominican Republic and local communities to learn more about healthcare at home and abroad to serve patients that otherwise would not have much access to physical therapy care. Additionally, students will be able to use tele-rehab services to serve patients in areas where healthcare is not easily accessible.

In the future, Dr. Klappa hopes to use the PRIMAL program to further enhance student learning. PRIMAL is a program that uses 3D imaging to help students learn about human anatomy and gives students a hands-on look at the human body as opposed to working in a cadaver lab or looking at a textbook.

This program is dedicated to hiring the best faculty and staff to produce a high-quality and innovative degree program in the field of healthcare. Dr. Klappa hopes to produce a group of students that will act as “change agents” in the field of healthcare by using their agile minds to seek and provide solutions to issues within the field. With endless possibilities for this new program, Dr. Susan Klappa said she “looks forward to using the best of what Davenport has to offer in all of its colleges to create the best Doctor of Physical Therapy program.”
NEW OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY GROUP FOCUSSES ON MENTAL HEALTH

In addition to being a leader in business and technology education, Davenport University has established itself as a leader in health education through the recent growth of its College of Health Professions with the addition of the Master of Science in Occupational Therapy (MSOT) degree.

The MSOT is a post-baccalaureate entry-level practice degree for students who wish to become practicing occupational therapists. This degree program puts a large emphasis on experiential learning and fieldwork in order to prepare students for their careers. Graduates leave with a wealth of knowledge in occupational therapy, as well as job experience and an understanding of workplace expectations.

Recently, the Occupational Therapy department created a new Registered Student Organization (RSO) called Active Minds. Active Minds is a nationwide organization that aims to “change the conversation about mental health by creating an environment of acceptance, and by providing resources for those who attend.” This organization also supports the philosophy of occupational therapy, which states, “occupational therapy is concerned with the ability of individuals, families and societal groups to participate in activities of daily life and engage in personally meaningful occupations. Occupations are all the activities that give our lives meaning and promote health, well-being and sense of purpose.”

Active Minds gives students, faculty and staff the opportunity to find those activities that support the philosophy of occupational therapy and provides resources and support for those who struggle with, or wish to learn more about, mental health. Active Minds is advised by Dr. Sharon Flinn, a faculty member of the Occupational Therapy department, with Nermin Soliman and Ashley Greaux, two graduate students in the Occupational Therapy program, serving as Active Minds officers.
COMPETENCY-BASED PROGRAM OPENS DOOR TO EDUCATION

The Competency-Based MBA Program (CMBA) is one of the newest innovations in education. The CMBA gives students the opportunity to take their time to learn the concepts needed for the degree and gives them credit when they can demonstrate it in a real-world application.

According to Jennifer Byron, Associate Dean of the College of Technology Online, “learning is fixed, time is variable in this program.” By putting an emphasis on prior learning, students earn credit for competencies they already use and demonstrate on the job. This allows students to earn their degree in as little or as much time as they need, with an average completion time of 20 months versus 24–26 months for a traditional MBA. Within the CMBA, instructors are able to fully understand what students are actually learning through real-world application assessments versus analyzing test scores.

This idea of analyzing what students are actually learning has impacted other classes at Davenport, shaping the way we as a university prepare our students for careers in the real world. Competency-based education is expanding across the nation, and Davenport is one of the first universities to offer this innovative way of learning. The Competency-Based Education Network (C-BEN) chose Davenport to be a part of a group of leading colleges and universities to accelerate progress on shared challenges around program design and integrity, business processes and systems and vendor relations to build models capable of scaling to serve many students from all backgrounds.

Competency-based education is especially innovative for adult learners and working professionals who may not have the time or resources to complete a traditional MBA. Through the CMBA, which takes all of the learning outcomes of a traditional MBA, students are able to control their workload and complete their degree on their own time when it is convenient for them, without the constraints and deadlines of a traditional degree program.

Dr. Wayne Sneath, Program Director of Experiential Learning, said the CMBA “innovates the way we think of education; it breaks the traditional model. Learning is demonstrated by what you can do, not just by sitting in a class. Additionally, since its launch in January 2015, DU’s program has generated a lot of interest and is in the process of growing into one of our premier degree programs.”

FACULTY | CMBA

2015 AUTOPSY MODULE DEVELOPMENT CONTEST

Mark McKinnon, instructor for the College of Technology, Digital Forensics and Information Assurance, recently won the 2015 Autopsy Module Development Contest run by the 6th Annual Open Source Digital Forensics Conference held in Virginia.

“Being a part of the competition is my way of giving back to the digital forensics community by helping to expand what the Autopsy forensic program does,” said McKinnon. “Competing is a great way for students to see how they can promote themselves and how they can give back to their professional community. It really is a win-win for Davenport and its students.”

The contest involved writing an Autopsy program used in digital forensics. The goal was to encourage developers to write Autopsy modules instead of stand-alone tools.

Per the conference website, “Writing new functionality as Autopsy modules makes users happy because they don’t have to jump between tools and it makes developers happy because they get to ignore details about file system, image formats and interfaces.”
THE WIDE WORLD OF SPORT CAREERS

With its recent accreditation by the Commission on Sport Management Accreditation (COSMA), the Sport Management program is providing a new look into the world of sports by providing students with the knowledge to pursue a career.

Faculty have created opportunities for students to gain a real-world perspective of the industry through internships, guest speakers and hosting sport management-related events. Two notable speakers that have dedicated their time to the program were Ray Bentley, former NFL player for the Buffalo Bills, ESPN Analyst and accomplished author, and Danny Dann, the Vice President of Marketing for the San Francisco Giants.

Ray Bentley spoke to over 250 students and athletes about balancing sports and school, as well as making the transition from sports to a career. Bentley encouraged students to explore their passions and to find a career that implements those passions.

Danny Dann spoke to nearly 250 students and 150 graduates via video conference about his career in sports marketing, his journey to his current position, the day-to-day duties of his job and the challenges he faces in the industry. At the end of his presentation, Dann even offered students internship opportunities with the San Francisco Giants.

The program has also added a sport analytics class, an athletic leadership and coaching class and a special topics class that will allow students to learn about different topics in the industry, such as women in sport management and technology in sport management, providing students with the opportunity to explore topics that interest them the most.

The West Michigan Whitetail Pursuit highlighted the work of Gar Allison and Calvin Beeke, two Davenport graduates of the Sport Management program who turned their passion for outdoor sports and recreation into a million-dollar business. This event allowed students and graduates to witness firsthand the success that one can find from the program and allowed students to learn more about the growing segment of outdoor sports and recreation in relation to the sport management industry.

DID YOU KNOW?

DU is the only COSMA accredited institution offering a Bachelor of Business Administration degree.
DU’S PARALEGAL PROGRAM—ONE OF THE BEST

Since 1992, DU’s paralegal program has been one of only a handful of schools to have been approved by the American Bar Association (ABA), making it one of the best pre-law programs and degrees in the nation.

Barbara Craft, J.D., Legal Studies Department Chair, lists the ABA approval as just one benefit of the program. Craft considers the program to be truly innovative in the ways it provides real-world experience for students through experiential learning. The paralegal program puts a high priority on placing paralegal students in actual legal settings with real clients under the supervision of licensed attorneys.

This past fall, students of the paralegal program were able to put experiential learning practices into effect when they held a mock trial, presided over by Judge William Kelly of the Kentwood District Court. With the help of over 20 graduates from Davenport and Cooley Law School, who served as jurors and witnesses to the case, Craft and her students learned how to prepare for a court hearing, as well as get a feel for the challenges attorneys face when in court with a client.

The Davenport Estate Planning Services (DEPS) program provides free estate planning discussions and documents for real-world clients prepared by DU paralegal students in the Estate Planning and Probate class. Students are responsible for interviewing their clients, which helps them develop soft skills and a sense of professionalism when in a difficult situation, as well as preparing the necessary documents.

The DEPS program has served over 200 clients and has made Davenport University visible in the community for its paralegal program.

“We hope our innovative measures in experiential learning and continued growth of the DEPS program will help students learn and build confidence in the legal field.”

BARBARA CRAFT
Innovation is more than a new building or an advance in technology; innovation is a change in the way people think, a change in perception and an awareness of what direction the world is going.

The Alpha League Global Leadership program at Davenport truly exemplifies innovation by embodying the values of diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) and then increasing the awareness of these values within the community. Alpha League founder, Terry Rostic, Senior Community College Admissions Representative, said “DEI is a buzzword; this program puts it into action like no other program in West Michigan.”

With the support of Davenport leadership, and well over one hundred employees, the Alpha League program has generated interest not just in West Michigan, but in the Great Lakes region. By increasing the awareness of diversity, equity and inclusion and taking pride in these values, the Alpha League has empowered its members to enact change, not just at DU, but in the community as well.

Rostic wants the members, whom he refers to as brothers, to be successful men that give back to their community, much like Rostic’s role model, Donald W. Maine. Members are given inspiration and encouragement daily and are a part of “the talented tenth,” which, according to Rostic, is “a tenth of every generation that can lead change…these men are that tenth.”

The Alpha League Global Leadership Program has seen tremendous success in the first 15 weeks, with an increase in donors to the program, members reporting above average GPAs and class completion compared to individuals not in the program and an overall feeling of success and empowerment.

Members have also changed their thought process from a negative outlook to a more positive perspective on their future. They have become more confident in their ability to succeed and support other members to gain this confidence as well. According to Rostic, it is critical for members to create a global impact; to force a change wherever they go; to empower other members who feel as though they have been discriminated against and to give them support to find their own success.

Alpha League members wish to not only change the views of Davenport in the areas of DEI, but in the community and beyond as well. The program goals include giving members a more global experience through the eventual funding of study abroad trips and increasing the number of members in each class, eventually growing to 700 or 800 members across all of DU’s campuses.

“I’m grateful the leadership team at Davenport has put this program at the forefront of things that are important,” said Rostic. “They believe in us. All of our members have a story; we are just a chapter of it. I can’t wait to see how their books end.”
FIRST-GENERATION COLLEGE STUDENT COUNTS HER WAY TO SUCCESS

Born in Mexico, Irma Cecila Garcia Murillo (Ceci) immigrated at age five. Her mother and father left a small town in Mexico with a desire to provide a better life for their children.

Traditionally, the families in their home town were very poor, and children often went to work in the fields at a young age. Ceci’s dad completed his education in sixth grade and her mom in second. Knowing the important role education plays in creating a better future, however, they did whatever they could to help Ceci pursue her educational goals, including moving to America.

The family made a home in Holland, and Ceci enjoyed school. Her first foray into accounting happened in high school to fulfill a math credit. Accounting made sense to her. She liked organizing and watching data flow. She delved more into the subject, and when it came time to choose a college, Ceci looked for one with a strong accounting program. Her search lead her to Davenport, where she is pursuing a major in Accounting Information Systems and a specialty in Management Accounting with hopes to graduate in 2018.

Ceci chose to attend classes at DU’s Holland Campus because it was close to home and felt comfortable. She has gotten to know and love the faculty and staff. The small classes and caring faculty are a perfect fit for her. And, as a recipient of the Latin Americans United for Progress Scholarship, Ceci knows how important giving back to the community is and does her part to help others.

Ceci volunteers to create bilingual handouts and brochures to bridge the language barrier and help build community relationships. She has also put her accounting skills to work by volunteering with Davenport’s Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (V.I.T.A.) program to help low-income people file their taxes.

Caring for family and helping others is a passion of Ceci’s. She attributes her success to those who have sacrificed and assisted her along the way.

FIFTH THIRD BANK PROVIDES FINANCIAL LITERACY TO STUDENTS

A partnership with Fifth Third Bank began with the intent of providing all first-year students with a financial literacy presentation. Davenport University alumna Sherry VanVugt piloted the presentation in Dr. Jodi Hicks’ ACES100 courses in 2013 and 2014, and this past fall she presented it to almost 100 first-year students.

“It is an informative and interactive presentation with emphasis on helping the students glean a better understanding of their financial situations and empowering them to make decisions about their money,” said Hicks, Director of First Year Experience.

The presentation focuses on credit, identity theft and paying off debt. This partnership with Fifth Third Bank began three years ago in a pilot format, and the presentation will now be integrated into all ACES100 sections.
BREAKING THE CHAIN OF ASSISTANCE

She didn’t realize she was being recruited at the time, and a phone interview quickly followed. She landed the position she’s held ever since.

LaTarsha says the job was a game-changer for her. “Nine dollars an hour was the most money I’d ever made in my life. And I learned what vacation days were. They would pay me to not be there!”

For the first time, she made too much money to qualify for public assistance. “I am so proud that I worked my way out of assistance. I was scared at the time, because I didn’t know how I’d make ends meet. Now though, I think it was the biggest blessing. I wanted to show my daughter that the chain of assistance breaks with me.”

LaTarsha says she went back to school to become a better example for Kimia. In her early teens, her daughter began acting out. When LaTarsha reasoned with her and told her how more education would help her go further in life, Kimia said, “Mom, if education is so important, why didn’t you finish school?”

In 2012, LaTarsha took her own advice and went back to school. She will graduate this May with her degree in Technology Project Management and a specialty in Computer Information Systems.

Her example guided Kimia, who graduated high school in 2014. After graduation, she applied for food stamps but was denied. She called her mom in tears, asking what she was going to do. LaTarsha recalls saying, “Honey, I’m sad because you’re sad, but it’s always been my prayer that you’d never receive assistance. So it worked.”

Now, Kimia is 19 and in the Army studying Information Technology. She aspires to study neurology and become a surgeon in the armed forces.

Kimia’s graduation and acceptance into the Army were momentous for LaTarsha. She feels like she’s in between two lifetimes right now. Her first lifetime, as “mom,” was marked by safe choices and a sense of duty to her child. But now she stands on the precipice of her second lifetime, “me.”

She has taken advantage of opportunities to study at Davenport University to ready herself for her second career and is grateful for scholarships she has received. LaTarsha says, “This time in my life is scary. I’m interviewing for positions with kids that are my daughter’s age. I get to do something I really want to do this time. And there are so many things I can do. I can program, I can code…”

LaTarsha is observant and noticed that some of the kids in her daughter’s class hated math. She knew these kids were smart and wondered if the class just didn’t interest them. One day, she watched a student who wasn’t doing well in math playing Call of Duty. She recognized his use of angles and trajectories to win the level.

The idea that video games could teach sparked a passion. Now that LaTarsha is finishing her degree with a specialty in Computer Information Systems, she hopes to live her next life as the creator of educational video games to help other students learn in creative and fun ways.
REGISTRATION FOR THE 2016 SUMMER ACADEMIC CAMPS OPENS SOON!

This summer Davenport University will again offer three, free Summer Academic Enrichment Camps (SAECs) that focus on educating through experience. These camps are geared for high school students (grades 9–12) in the greater Grand Rapids area.

CSI DAVENPORT FORENSIC SCIENCE CAMP (BIOLOGY-FOCUSED)

Students apply laboratory techniques to analyze evidence recovered from a mock crime scene. They will:

- Have fun doing “real-life” CSI work by investigating a staged crime scene
- Learn exciting laboratory techniques that police and forensic scientists use to catch criminals
- Learn about DNA analysis

WRITE YOUR WORLD CAMP (CREATIVE WRITING-FOCUSED)

Students explore real and imaginary worlds through written expression in multiple genres. Focusing on autobiography, storytelling and poetry, students will:

- Develop their writing voice through fun and engaging activities
- Combine digital and print experiences
- Create, evaluate and revise writing
- Build a writing anthology with others

NUMB3RS CAMP (MATHEMATICS-FOCUSED)

Discover why mathematics is the key to understanding and enjoying our fascinating world. Using challenging games and hands-on activities, students will:

- Determine strategies for beating the odds
- Color a map with as few colors as possible
- Explore the world of chaos and fractals
- Find secret patterns to crack codes
- Discover how nature achieves the most efficient solutions

Please visit the Davenport website for more information and sign up forms:

davenport.edu/college-arts-and-sciences/summer-camps
On January 25, 1866, a group of 16 students gathered in a classroom in downtown Grand Rapids to take lessons from a former Union soldier named Conrad Swensburg, learning the skills necessary to succeed in Michigan’s growing commercial enterprises of the era.

In 1924, Davenport bought a local competitor and formed the Davenport-McLachlan Institute. As the head of the school, M.E. Davenport developed a reputation as an innovator in education. He combined practical skills with the studies of humanities, and because of his forethought, the Davenport-McLachlan Institute survived the 1929 stock market crash and thrived through post-World War II, when many returning soldiers headed back to school.

In 1910, the school’s fortunes were bleak, with deepening deficits, declining enrollment and fierce competition threatening to close its doors. A young faculty member, Michael Edward Davenport, took over management of the school and turned things around.

In 1954, M.E.’s final accomplishment converted the now-known Davenport Business Institute (DBI) to non-profit status. His son-in-law, Robert W. Sneden, took over the helm and continued to expand on Davenport’s practical education tradition.

Under his leadership, DBI became the first independent business school in Michigan to achieve collegiate status.

It was accredited by the North Central Association and, by 1967, had grown to over 2,000 students.
“2016 marks an incredible milestone not just for Davenport, but for our community. In the past 150 years, thousands of students have passed through our doors and gone on to succeed in their careers and contribute to their communities. Davenport is an important part of Michigan’s history and is positioned to play an even bigger role going forward as we continue to reach new heights of excellence while helping students Get Where the World is Going.”

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**1971**

In 1971, Donald W. Maine, the first president outside the Davenport family, was appointed to take over. And, with an uncertain global economy, he knew things had to change.

**1985**

A shift toward adult learning began, and by the end of 1985, the first class of baccalaureates graduated and three short years later, Davenport had its first MBA graduate—remarkable achievement.

**2005**

As the institution grew, Davenport operated as three separate colleges in three states. Don Maine, and later, President Randy Flechsig, helped shift these three colleges into one that is now known as Davenport University. Flechsig reinstated Davenport’s athletics program and expanded the fledgling online education program. He presided over the opening of the W.A. Lettinga Campus in the fall of 2005.

**2009**

In 2009, Davenport’s current president, Dr. Richard Pappas took over the leadership reigns.

**2015**

Through Dr. Pappas’ long-range, strategic Vision 2015, Davenport reached its highest levels yet of student outcomes.

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**TODAY**

- A 110 PERCENT INCREASE IN GRADUATION RATE
- INNOVATIVE NEW PROGRAMS
- A NEW COLLEGE OF URBAN EDUCATION
- AN EMPLOYMENT GUARANTEE
- COMPETENCY-BASED EDUCATION
- AND MORE

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**A once small business school has grown into one of Michigan’s largest, private, non-profit institutions of higher learning.**
“Davenport University is different because of the uniqueness of the people and their ability to change and move in the direction of the world. DU’s innovation and focus on ‘Getting Where the World is Going’ has been its key driver in success and will allow the university to succeed for many years to come.”

FRANK H. MERLOTTI, JR.

JOIN US IN THE YEAR-LONG CELEBRATION!

Davenport is celebrating its Sesquicentennial year at events throughout 2016, culminating in a 150th Anniversary Founder’s Gala on September 29, 2016.

In January, more than 200 people attended the 150th Anniversary Kick-Off Event held at the W.A. Lettinga Campus. The event featured speakers President Rick Pappas, Chairman of Davenport University’s Board of Trustees Frank Merlotti, Jr., Executive Vice President for Alumni & Development Peg Luy and Chancellor Emeritus Donald W. Maine. Other notable attendees included trustee Wilbur A. Lettinga and his family, former Davenport executive Roger Vanderlaan and family and Peggy Sneden Moceri, the daughter of former President Dr. Robert Sneden, and granddaughter of M.E. Davenport. Davenport’s many accomplishments were showcased, from its humble beginnings in 1866 to present day in 2016 and into the future with Vision 2020. A video celebrating Davenport’s 150 years debuted and can be viewed online. Also, the Davenport University History Wall was unveiled in the Sneden building.

Additional events throughout 2016 include the Excellence in Business Dinner and the Founder’s 150th Anniversary Gala on September 29, 2016.

For more info on upcoming 150th Anniversary events and to see historic photos and the video commemorating the Sesquicentennial, please visit davenport.edu/150th
CARVE YOUR NAME INTO DU HISTORY!

As part of the Sesquicentennial celebration, we want you to share your experiences from the 150 years of Davenport University. Through your favorite social media channel, tag your photos with the hashtag #DU150Anniversary to help us build a catalog of memories. We’re also sharing photos from the DU archives—#TBT!

Have something to add? Share your thoughts and images on one of our social media platforms.
Nagesh Gummadavelly knows first-hand how the tech world is constantly changing. “Technology moves at lightning speed. Either you keep up with it to compete or you step aside and hire the right people.” And that’s exactly what he decided to do in 2001 when he started Initech Global, a technology staffing and consulting firm based in Grand Rapids.
“At Initech, our focus is on culture, clients and community. I say culture first—I’m proud to say that we focus on our people.”

Nagesh Gummadavelly

Nagesh studied mechanical engineering in India but received a piece of advice from a friend that changed his career trajectory. That advice led him to Computer Science and a Master’s degree from Bradley University in Illinois. After graduating, he was working in the field on a consulting project in Grand Rapids when he met the woman that would become his wife. Grand Rapids went from a temporary assignment to the place he would settle down and start his family. It’s also where he decided to launch the next stage of his career with a single-person tech startup in 2001 that grew into a business of 100 employees spanning two continents by 2016.

As the company grew, Nagesh developed the philosophy that continues to be a guiding principle, as well as being the characteristic that sets Initech apart from similar companies in the field. “At Initech, our focus is on culture, clients and community. I say culture first—I’m proud to say that we focus on our people.”

Helping those employees develop themselves professionally is an important part of the culture at Initech. Employees are encouraged to attend trainings or complete certifications that will help them stay competitive. Nagesh also sees the importance of local companies encouraging students interested in technology. “The demand in programming is so high, but there is less desire for young people to go into that field. Companies are outsourcing because there’s not enough talent here.”

Part of Nagesh’s strategy to help develop and retain talent in the area is through the scholarships Initech supports at Davenport and another area school. The scholarships stem from a desire to help those students who are trying to make their way into technology-related fields. At Davenport, Initech recently increased their commitment, moving from an annual to an endowed scholarship opportunity. This came as part of the Anniversary Scholarship Campaign, launched in celebration of Davenport’s 150th Anniversary.

Initech’s investment in an endowed fund means earnings from the scholarship will be available to support students forever.

Initech has also started an internship program as another tool to develop and retain talent. They currently host one intern with a short-term goal of having two opportunities every year. Nagesh shared that many companies use internships as a way to encourage those interested in the technology field and that many of those interns become full-time staff.

Recently, Nagesh and the team at Initech got the chance to meet Thomas Evans, the DU student who received the company’s scholarship this year. These types of meetings can be arranged throughout the year and are an excellent opportunity for students to express their gratitude to the generous donors helping reduce the financial burden of attaining a degree.
Thomas Evans is a first generation college student and was extremely honored to receive the Initech Global Scholarship in the fall of 2015. He loves DU for many reasons but said, “I feel like I belong here... Davenport chose me.”

Tell us a little about yourself, Thomas!

I am native to Grand Rapids. I am a musician and started playing instruments and singing in the fourth grade. I play the drums, guitar, viola and violin. I also enjoy competitive gaming and designing new programs. Since I like engaging with customers and meeting new people, I also work part-time at McDonald’s.

Why did you choose to attend DU?

I was adopted at two weeks old and raised by my aunt and two older sisters. When I was 15, my aunt passed away. My legal father, who was 77 at the time, adopted me. I wanted to stay close to home. I feel like Davenport chose me. Davenport had everything I was looking for in a college—the perfect program, pep band and generous scholarships.

What is your dream job?

I would love to be a network engineer at a local company. I think that DU will help me accomplish my goals because my instructors know where I want to go and will lead me in the right direction.

Note: This interview took place in December 2015.

How was the Initech Global Scholarship helpful to you?

When I found out I received the scholarship, I freaked out with excitement. I was so overwhelmed with happiness. It felt like a huge weight was lifted off my shoulders. I am thankful and happy that I can spend my time as a college student, focusing on my studies and being social and not worry about working as much.

Without this scholarship, I would have to work a lot more. I would not be able to take a full semester of classes and my grades would suffer. The scholarship has allowed me to work part-time, while taking classes full-time and participating in campus life activities.

INTERESTED IN LEARNING MORE ABOUT THE ANNIVERSARY SCHOLARSHIP CAMPAIGN?

Contact Louise Kidd, Executive Director of Leadership Gifts and Donor Services at 616-233-3413.
The Medical Education and Training Campus (METC) located at Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio, Tex. is a state-of-the-art Department of Defense healthcare education campus with over 50 medical programs and 21,000 graduates a year. With a focus on training enlisted personnel, METC sought a partnership with Davenport because of its pioneering Veterans Bachelor of Science in Nursing initiative (VBSN).
One of just a few initiatives in the country, DU’s VBSN is designed to help veterans and inactive military service members successfully pursue and attain a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) degree, pass the National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX) and obtain a nursing position in the healthcare field. For many military medically trained veterans, this pathway will fast track them into the middle of their sophomore year of the nursing program.

Last October, Lt. Col. David S. Johnston, Ph.D., M.S.S.I, who serves as Director of Strategic Planning & Partnerships for METC, traveled to Davenport to meet with administrators, faculty and staff to assess the compatibility of the two organizations. Impressed with the academic offerings available to veterans, a signing ceremony was held to demonstrate the commitment of both organizations to educating service members and helping them succeed.
Since the signing, the partnership has expanded beyond the VBSN pathway. METC graduates who are a good fit for other Davenport programs have the opportunity to receive additional credit for experience and could be accelerated in progress toward a degree.

“We have made a conscious effort to create a ‘Military Friendly’ designated campus by offering specialized services to all of our student veterans and service members,” said Dr. Rick Pappas. “Our continued goal is to provide exemplary services to our military service members, veterans and their families.”

Davenport also recently earned the Best for Vets: Colleges 2016 ranking from Military Times. In its sixth year, these rankings factor in the results of Military Times’ annual survey, the most comprehensive school-by-school assessment of veteran and military student services, and rates of academic achievement. The publication also factors in data from the Veterans Affairs and Defense Departments, as well as three Education Department sources: the IPEDS Data Center, College Scorecard data and the Cohort Default Rate Database.

This project is supported by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) under grant number UH1HP26488 and title “Veterans to BSN initiative” for $1,217,446, with 0% financed with nongovernmental sources. This information or content and conclusions are those of the author and should not be construed as the official position or policy of, nor should any endorsements be inferred by HRSA, HHS or the U.S. Government.
“Our continued goal is to provide exemplary services to our military service members, veterans and their families.”

DR. RICK PAPPAS

ABOVE Dean of the College of Health Professions Dr. Karen Daley, Dr. Rick Pappas and Lt. Col. David S. Johnston, Ph.D. M.S.S.I. mark the important day with members of DU’s Student Veterans Association (SVA).
Davenport University graduates are changing the technology landscape across the country. DU’s roots as a business school encourages an entrepreneurial spirit in students and helps develop solid business skills that allow them to create innovative start-ups, manage large technology infrastructures and grow family businesses.
“Innovation is most pronounced in the technology sector. We see it everywhere from the algorithms used to suggest products for us to purchase online to new imaging technology in the healthcare industry.”

DR. PAMELA IMPERATO

“Students in our College of Technology are well prepared for business ventures, because of the application-based approach of our curriculum and the performance-based emphasis of our faculty when mentoring our students,” said Dr. Pamela Imperato, Dean of the Donald W. Maine College of Business and the College of Technology.

RADI8ING THE TECHNOLOGY STARTUP INDUSTRY: JAMES CZEREW ’07

James, a 2007 Network Security & Network Engineering graduate, started his first company, TechConnect, LLC, in 2011 after a period of working in the healthcare industry.

“For most of my life, I had the idea I might one day start a company. I quickly learned that there is a big difference between the dream of starting a company and the reality of actually running one,” stated James. “Everyone has a ‘million-dollar’ idea, but what it comes down to is: execution. That is where business and innovation skills are needed.”

James’ goal was to develop TechConnect, LLC as a technology consulting company, providing innovative technology solutions that were stable, secure and elegant for both local and international companies.

“Making the jump from a ‘wantrepreneur’ to an entrepreneur was one of the scariest things I have ever done; however, it has also been one of the most rewarding things I have ever accomplished. Thanks to the many positive business and technology experiences at DU, I feel I was set up for success.”

The inclusion of business courses in his IT degree path gave him a strong business foundation and the courage to launch his technology and security company. Through DU, he had access to advanced technology equipment while getting practical hands-on experiences from instructors who were experts in their fields.

James’ more recent startup project, “radi8er,” is a combination of three of his favorite passions in life: music, community and technology. Set to launch in spring of 2016, radi8er is introducing a new type of music streaming app to the airwaves. The app focuses on localized music discovery, empowering artists to connect directly with their fans while enabling music lovers to discover music based on their location and listening preferences.

“radi8er is being called the world’s first hyper-local, crowd-powered, real-time music discovery platform,” said James. “We are hoping to help people experience that ‘I just discovered my new favorite band’ feeling more often. We want to enable those moments of discovery and restore connections between a music scene and its community.”

 ABOVE James Czerew, ’07 Alumni Board Member
ANCHORING THE IT DEPARTMENT AT S2 YACHTS: MICHELLE STONEBROOK ’02

“When I started at S2 Yachts there was only one person in the IT department,” explained Michelle Stonebrook ’02, IT Director at S2 Yachts. “Now we have six full-time staff members who manage all aspects of our organization’s hardware, software, data and communications in both our Michigan and Florida locations. Our S2 Yachts division and headquarters is in Holland, Michigan and our Pursuit Fishing Boats division is in Ft. Pierce, Florida.”

Michelle started working at S2 Yachts over 24 years ago. Even though she was looking for a teaching job, she fell in love with the people at the company and the work she did with computers. She noticed an opportunity to take advantage of S2’s amazing tuition reimbursement program and returned to school to obtain her degree in IT to better ride the wave of technology.

Beginning with accelerated classes at DU, Michelle took two classes per semester for five years while working full-time. Michelle’s originality and passion for IT landed her a role in S2 Yachts’ IT department before she finished her degree. After graduating with dual bachelor degrees in Systems Analysis & Application Development and PC & Network Management, she moved up in the department.

“It is our goal to support the strategic direction of the company and to provide IT customer service to the rest of the organization,” stated Michelle. “In that effort, our team creates innovative solutions for all aspects of the business. We seek ways to improve efficiency by streamlining processes and to provide better information for business decision-making.”

“In addition to our other business software, we implemented and continue to develop and maintain our enterprise resource planning (ERP) software. This was an enormous project and continues to be of great importance because it manages the vast majority of our business data processes: accounting, purchasing, inventory, production, sales, quality, customer service, project management, reporting and more. This software is used in every functional area of the company. Our IT team is also responsible for our network infrastructure, security and unified communications (UC), including implementation of our recently added video conferencing capabilities. We also assist employees with all IT-related issues in both Michigan and Florida. Our goal is to support all of our internal and external customers at S2 Yachts to help the company gain a competitive edge.”

Michelle is an inspiration to many women who have an interest in technology. She inspired her niece Kristen, who graduated from DU with degrees in Web Design and Development and Computer Information Systems and now has a web development role in DU’s IT Department.

THE THIRD WAVE OF INNOVATION: NICK KUNCAITIS ’10

Nick, who graduated in 2010 with a BAS in Network Security and Biometric Security, always knew he wanted to work at his family business started by his grandpa, Mike Kuncaitis Sr.

“My grandpa started his first IT company, Data Consultants Inc., in 1980,” said Nick. “I admired his ability to service clients’ needs through innovative IT solutions, especially during the rapid growth of technology. Today their main focus is providing security solutions for enterprises around the country.”

After college, Nick started to develop new skills and valuable knowledge to prepare him to return to the family business. For four years, he worked for the State of Michigan’s Department of Technology Management and Budget...
department as a website developer and project manager.

"Timing just seemed right," Nick said. "After discussion with my family, I was presented with the opportunity to help grow the business, and I jumped on it!"

Nick works as a field technician for Standard Computer Systems, one of four technology companies under the K Group Companies’ umbrella. In addition to implementing leading-edge industry best practices, he creates customized security solutions for clients, fixes equipment and assists with managing their IT infrastructure.

"Clients may have similar issues, but I have learned that all of our clients are unique. I brought previous experiences from the State of Michigan and the Network Security program to develop clever solutions and IT strategies for our clients."

The best part about Nick’s role is that he can take a proactive approach to solve problems and initiate solutions before they occur. "While traveling to different businesses in the greater Grand Rapids area, I am able learn and gather information to provide creative IT consultation and support for each unique client. I ask questions and experiment, while staying up-to-date with security trends to spot opportunities and potential improvements," said Nick.

"It is hard to put into words why I wanted to work for K Companies Inc. when I was young, but the reasons I am here now are pretty meaningful. The job allows me to be creative while aligning better with my interests and passions. Most importantly, I am able to carry on the visionary legacy that my grandpa started 36 years ago."
Business Alum Turns Passion for Education into a Career
Fifteen years ago, if you were to ask Derrick King ‘09 if he would be where he is today, he would have said “no way.” “But lucky for me, Davenport gave me a chance,” he said.

Derrick King wasn’t in a good place fifteen years ago. He had a lot of challenges. But, he knew he had to make a better life for himself and his family.

At the age of 19 with his wife by his side, Derrick challenged himself to earn a college degree and reach higher for his family.

After starting his collegiate career at Northwood University as a walk-on basketball player, Derrick transferred to Davenport University and started as a point guard for the Panthers for two years.

Derrick graduated in 2009 with a Bachelor’s degree in Business Management. His first job out of college was working as an enrollment counselor at the University of Phoenix where he earned his MBA.

Derrick pursued his next career as a substitute teacher while coaching. “I really enjoy mentoring and working with kids, so working as a substitute teacher for two years was a perfect springboard for my non-traditional business career.” His substitute teaching job and experience as a college enrollment counselor equipped him with the skills and experiences he needed for his next job at National Heritage Academies (NHA) as a Campus Relations Specialist in Talent Acquisition. In this role, Derrick traveled the United States, building relationships with college and university leaders to build a pipeline of future teachers for NHA.

Now, he’s inspired everyday by young students in his job as the Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (S.T.E.M.) Education Executive at the Boy Scouts of America in Grand Rapids. He relates to these children because, he said, “I am raising three children of my own. To know that I am making a difference in the lives of children because of the innovative programs I implement and partnerships that I build is extremely fulfilling. I help give young Boy Scouts the opportunity to gain insight and knowledge in the S.T.E.M. field. I am able to work with kids that were just like me to build better opportunities for them.”

“Davenport made a huge difference in my life. They gave me a chance and opportunity to succeed in and out of the classroom.”

DERRICK KING ‘09

ENTREPRENEUR
West Side Report, a West Michigan scouting company

COACH
High School Basketball Coach

PUBLISHED AUTHOR
Diversity Recruitment Partners in Education magazine
SAVE THE DATES
FOR ALUMNI & DEVELOPMENT EVENTS
April 21
Scholarship Reception

April 27
Houston Alumni Chapter Happy Hour

May 6
Excellence in Business Dinner Gala
Peter C. Cook Award Honoree Birgit Klohs
Keynote Speaker Anderson Cooper

May 13
Summer Kick Off at Founders Brewing Co.

May 16
Neighborhood Business Luncheon

June 9
Legacy Society Dinner

June 10
Southeast Michigan Alumni Golf Outing at Fellows Creek Golf Club

July 21
Young Alumni Whitecaps Baseball Outing

July 25
West Michigan Alumni Golf Outing at Watermark Country Club

July 30
Great Lakes Loons Baseball Outing

August 5
Lansing Lugnuts Baseball Outing

August 13
DU at the Detroit Zoo

August 22
30th Annual Davenport Scholarship Golf Outing at Egypt Valley Country Club

Visit our website for event details and registration
davenport.edu/alumni-development/events
DU Class Notes
Spring 2016

PROFESSIONAL

Matt Barczak, ’10 BBA, MBA Accounting, was hired as a Senior Associate at Rehmann in Grand Rapids.

Sara (Ha Verdink) Bolster, ’10 BBA, MBA Accounting, joined Meijer as Senior Auditor in Grand Rapids.

Erika (Peterson) Bortignon, ’09 BBA Marketing, was promoted to Customer Development Specialist for the Atlanta North Market at Gordon Food Service in Atlanta, Georgia.

Ema Cuturic, ’14 BBA Marketing, was hired as an Account Representative at Adams Outdoor Advertising in Kalamazoo.

Nick Czerew, ’13 BBA Management, ’15 MM Management, was hired as an Assistant Office Manager at TechConnect, LLC in Grand Rapids.

Jenelle Marie Davis, ’10 BBA, MBA Accounting, was recognized as one of the 50 Most Influential Women in West Michigan by the Grand Rapids Business Journal.

Jason DeBoer, ’11 MBA Strategic Management, joined Universal Forest Products, Inc. as the Category Marketing Manager of Decks, Docks & Porches in Grand Rapids.

Tony Deakin, ’09 BBA Sports Management, was hired as a Fitness Manager at Salvation Army Kroc Center in Grand Rapids.

Anthony Duangkaew, ’15 BBA Finance, joined MassMutual as a Financial Services Professional in Houston, Texas.

Denisse Favela, ’12 BBA Marketing, was hired as a Business Development Manager at Logisti-K in San Luis Potosí Area, Mexico.

Greg Foster, ’08 BBA Management, was promoted to Campus Director of Davenport University’s Holland Campus.

Shellie (Schantz) Hubert, ’96 BBA Computer Information Systems, was promoted to Assistant Director of Enterprise Application Services at Michigan Technological University in Houghton, Michigan.

Amy Nathalie LaGrange, ’10 MBA Healthcare Management, obtained Fellowship in Practice Management from Medical Group Management Association. ACMPE Fellowship is the highest level of distinction that can be earned in the medical practice management profession.

Hillary (Hooker) Leonard, ’10 BBA Management with an Entrepreneurship Specialty, was hired as a Health Information Management Technician at Spectrum Health Pennock in Hastings.

Marcie Lewis, ’84 BS Business, was recognized as one of the 50 Most Influential Women in West Michigan by the Grand Rapids Business Journal.

Joseph Marino, ’12 BS Medical Case Management, ’15 MBA Strategic Management, was hired as a Logistics Coordinator at LeanLogistics in Holland.

Arthur Garner, ’89 AS Accounting, ’91 BBA Accounting, ’04 MBA Strategic Management, is now the Principal at Muskegon High School.
Andrew Weiss, ’15 BBA Management, was hired as an IT Solutions Consultant at Dykstra IT in Grand Rapids.

Jennifer Wilson, ’02 BAS Business, was hired as the Foundation Director at Metro Health Hospital in Grand Rapids.

**ENGAGEMENTS AND MARRIAGES**

Corey Anderson, ’13 BBA Sport Management, and Natalie McHale, ’15 BBA Business, are engaged to be married.

Mark Berlin, ’11 BBA Accounting Information Management, and Emily Rosenzweig, ’10 BBA Marketing, will marry in May 2016.

Erik Dane, ’07 MBA Strategic Management, and Ashley Box will marry in July 2016.


Caitlin MacNeil, ’10 BBA Marketing, and Jeremy Deis, will marry in April 2017.


Keri McArthur, ’10 BBA Marketing, and Michael Brooks will marry in July 2016.

**IN MEMORIAM**

Terry Armey, ’71 AS Sales & Marketing, passed away on December 3, 2015.


DU Class Notes
Spring 2016

Carolyn Boles, '87 Diploma, passed away on November 20, 2015.


Sherry Cox, '93 BBA Management, passed away on November 21, 2015.

Jason Kapp, '03 BBA Accounting Information Management, passed away on November 15, 2015.

Kelly Marino, '88 ABA Travel & Tourism, passed away on November 26, 2015.

Joanne Mutschler, '88 AS, '91 BBA Accounting, passed away on December 26, 2015.

Noemi Palacios, '84 Diploma Word Processing, passed away on November 29, 2015.

Cindy Provost, '93 Diploma Business Information, passed away on December 21, 2015.


Jewel Scrimger, '06 ABA Administrative Technology, passed away on December 1, 2015.


Tracey Wilson, '04 BBA Computer Networking Technology, '11 MS Information Assurance, passed away on November 12, 2015.

Debra Wittenbach, '85 BBA Marketing, passed away on November 29, 2015.

KEEP IN TOUCH!

Share news with your fellow alumni by updating your alumni records. We know exciting things are happening to our graduates around the world, and we want to share! Email us at alumni@davenport.edu or visit davenport.edu/classnotes.
When Davenport University began as the Grand Rapids Business College and Telegraphic Institute, founder Conrad Swensberg knew many of the veterans returning home from the Civil War needed to make the switch from earning a living on the farm to earning a living in a world being swept up in the Industrial Revolution.

Students could study business as a science and learn new technology such as telegraphy, a skill very new in that time period.

M.E. Davenport was also a forward thinker. He decided to combine practical tools with each degree so that students didn’t just learn about the ever-changing technology tools, they worked with them, used them and gained experience that would transfer to the working environment.

As the institution grew, so did the curriculum and technology offerings. Today, Davenport is on the cutting edge of the business, technology and health professions.

Students learn in the classroom, but also in the work place. Hands-on experience is what helps make DU students among the most sought after by employers. They graduate with a proven track record of skill and knowledge. It’s the foundation that Davenport was built on.
Join Us As We Celebrate 150 Years!

SESQUICENTENNIAL SIGNATURE EVENTS

Excellence in Business Dinner Gala
Peter C. Cook Award Honoree Birgit Klohs
Keynote Speaker Anderson Cooper
Friday, May 6, 2016
DeVos Place in Grand Rapids
davenport.edu/eib

30th Annual Scholarship Golf Classic
Monday, August 22, 2016
Egypt Valley Country Club
davenport.edu/golf

Founder's 150th Anniversary Gala
Thursday, September 29, 2016
DeVos Place in Grand Rapids
davenport.edu/150gala