Scholarship gifts make a difference
Message from the President

Thank you!

A contribution to Davenport University can be the key to opening the door of opportunity to higher education and a degree that leads to a rewarding career. Thank you for your donations that support so many of our qualified and deserving students.

Your support is helping our students start, stay and succeed. In deepest gratitude, I pledge to you a priceless return on your investment. That return is a growing number of talented graduates who will make meaningful and lasting contributions to our community.

In recognition of your generosity, this issue of Davenport University Magazine includes a listing of our donors. On behalf of our scholarship recipients and students who benefit in other ways from your contributions, we are truly grateful for each person on that list.

This issue is devoted to stories about donors and the students whose lives are changed by their generosity. I was privileged to participate in a major event profiled in this issue that focuses on serving students: our Foundation Scholarship Dinner. What a thrill to again spend time with talented students at this event and hear them express their heartfelt thanks for helping make their educational and career dreams a reality!

Our students greatly appreciate your support. And they work hard to make sure your support is a smart investment in our future. From all of them and all of us at Davenport University, thank you!

Sincerely,

Dave

On the cover:
DU donors Fred and Bev Braun with Foundation Scholarship recipients (left to right), Jennifer Ewing, Auna Dailey, and J.J. Swain
More than 20 scholarship recipients along with 80 donors and guests attended the sixth annual Davenport University Foundation Scholarship Dinner on October 3 at the Egypt Valley Country Club in Grand Rapids.

The Foundation Scholarship Dinner is a unique opportunity for Davenport University Foundation scholarship donors to meet the students who benefit from their gifts, and vice versa. Connecting student scholarship recipients with their benefactors is a very special experience. Donors have the opportunity to see first-hand an excellent return on their investment in DU. For students it’s a chance to show their gratitude to donors who have made their schooling possible. The dinner also helps them with networking skills they’ll need in the future.

Gifts that grow in value

During the evening’s program, student speakers James Czerew and Sandra Kiel expressed their appreciation for the financial support they receive.

(continued on page 4)
Scholarship gifts make a difference
(continued from p. 3)

“The scholarship I received has allowed me the opportunity to concentrate more fully on my studies and worry less about the financial challenge of paying tuition,” said James, a School of Technology student who is pursuing bachelor’s degrees in both network security and network engineering. “It is very inspiring to me to know that there are people willing to aid students such as myself with their time and financial gifts, even though we have never met.”

Sandra Kiel graduated from DU in 1981 with an associate’s degree. “Today I have been given the gift of education,” said the mother of four who is now studying for a bachelor’s degree. “You have not only given this gift to me, you have encouraged all of the students at Davenport to pursue their dreams. This is a gift that only grows in value … Tonight I share my story to simply say ‘thank you!’ Your gift has made a difference in my life. Your gift is making my dream a reality.”

Planned giving can help a student start, stay, and succeed

At this time of year, many people are thinking about their options for charitable giving. As you make your own giving decisions, consider this: Planning your gift to Davenport University now can help a DU student start, stay, and succeed in the future.

Planned giving through deferred and estate-plan gifts is an increasingly popular way to purposefully leave such a legacy. You have several options for planning your gift to DU:

Bequests Remember DU in your estate with a gift through your will or trust.

Give from your IRA As part of the Pension Protection Act of 2006, Congress has made it possible to make tax-free charitable gifts from your IRA. If you are over the age of 70½, you may want to consider making gifts directly from your IRA.

Gifts through life insurance Many members of Davenport’s Legacy Club have already named DU as the beneficiary of an insurance policy.

Charitable annuity This can be in the form of a charitable remainder annuity trust, charitable lead trust, charitable gift annuity, or charitable remainder unitrust.

Legacy Club is a way to say “thanks” Many DU supporters have become members of the Davenport University Legacy Club with planned giving through deferred or estate-plan donations.

The Legacy Club is our way of recognizing these generous and forward-thinking donors. It allows the university to thank them today for the gifts of tomorrow, which will benefit our students long into the future.

Leaving a legacy is important to everyone. Won’t you keep DU in mind as you plan yours? For more information, please contact Dr. Jacqueline Taylor, vice president for development, at 616-233-3418.

Note: This article is meant to describe ways in which you can assist Davenport into the future; however, for assistance in planning charitable gifts with tax and other financial implications, you will want to seek the services of appropriate advisors.
Giving … the foundation of living
Davenport University Foundation raises $2 million-plus in FY ’05

In the fiscal year 2005-06, a total of $2.15 million in gifts and pledges was raised for student scholarships, programs, and capital projects. We offer our deepest gratitude to the many alumni, friends, and companies who made this success possible. Your support impacts the lives of thousands of DU students every day. On behalf of them, thank you!
Charitable giving and your taxes: a primer

U.S. taxpayers claimed more than $135 billion in charitable contributions in 2002, according to Jeff Schnepper, writing for MSN Money. That makes charitable gifts the third biggest deduction, right behind deductions for taxes paid and mortgage interest. Clearly, making charitable contributions is a popular way to reduce your tax bill while benefiting your favorite cause.

How does my gift reduce my taxes?
Tax law allows your charitable gift to a qualified recipient as an itemized deduction on your tax return. And because a deduction means a tax savings, your actual donation cost is less. For example:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Itemized donation</th>
<th>$100</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tax savings (25% tax bracket)</td>
<td>$25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Actual cost of donation</td>
<td>$75</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

What gifts are deductible?
Only your gifts to qualified recipients are allowed as deductions. You can check the Internal Revenue Service website (www.irs.gov/charities) for a specific list. Here's a general list of organizations that qualify (from IRS Publication 526):

- Churches, synagogues, temples, mosques, and other religious organizations
- Federal, state, and local governments if your contribution is solely for public purposes (for example, a gift to reduce the public debt)
- Nonprofit schools (such as Davenport University) and hospitals
- War veterans groups

What counts as a gift?
- Money or property to a qualified organization
- Your expenses as a volunteer for a qualified organization
- Expenses paid for a student who lives with you and is sponsored by a qualified organization

When is a gift deductible?
A gift is deductible in the year it is paid. A check in the mail counts as payment regardless of when it is received or cashed. A credit card contribution is deductible immediately, whether payment on the credit card is made next month or next year.

How do I claim my deductions?
To deduct your charitable contributions you must:

- File Form 1040 U.S. Individual Income Tax Return
- Itemize your deductions on Schedule A, Itemized Deduction

—Source: MSN Money

3 quick questions for alum and donor Mike Door

Mike Door, ABA '77, is a partner with Lettinga & Associates, LLC, CPAs. He represents the second of three generations in his family to graduate from Davenport: His father, Eugene in 1956 and daughter Kristen with the class of 2004. Mike and his wife, Deb, have been married 28 years and have three children, ages 25, 23, and 18. His alumni involvement goes back to the mid '80s, and he's served with the Alumni Association and on the Davenport Foundation board.

Q: How involved have you been with Davenport since you graduated?
A: I've attended and worked at a lot of Alumni Association and Foundation events over the years. I served on the Alumni Association Board for nine years, three of them as president. I've been on the Foundation board for five years, currently serving as chairman of the investment committee and as treasurer of the Foundation.

Q: What's been your favorite Davenport "cause" to get involved with?
A: The more rewarding and enjoyable experiences have been the career fairs and forums with the students. Just recently I was on a panel with four others, talking to career classes. This gives me a chance to help students get started in their careers. It's helpful when they can connect and talk with someone who is doing what they want to do. I also enjoy hearing from students who receive scholarships. It's very gratifying to know I'm helping where there's need.

Q: Why has it been important for you to give back to Davenport?
A: God has given me time, talents and resources, and it is my responsibility to give these back in all areas of my life. One of the areas I have chosen is Davenport.

When we give, we have to open our hands to let it go. We also receive with open hands. My experience has been that when I give to others, I am blessed.
Thomas Claerhout graduated as co-salutatorian of the Unionville-Sebewaing Area High School class of 2006. A dual-enrollee at Davenport during his senior year, Thomas thought attending DU was a given.

“I loved the small class sizes and the hands-on instructors,” says Thomas, who began his full-time studies at DU with 19 credits already under his belt. “I didn’t want to attend a huge university where I would be just another number.”

But finances would be a problem. Thomas was accepted at a public university, “but that school really didn’t fit me,” he says. “It seemed like they didn’t want to accommodate me.” Then he was offered a full scholarship from DU.

“It’s a dream come true. With my schedule, I go to class three days a week and put in about 25 hours at work,” says the sales manager at a fledgling plastics company. “Without the scholarship paying for tuition, I could not manage.”

And manage he does. At this writing, Thomas was carrying 15 credits, holding down a 4.0 GPA, and aiming to graduate in just three years.
The opening of the modern, technologically forward main campus on the outskirts of Grand Rapids last fall ushered in an exciting new era for Davenport University. Our heartfelt thanks go out to all donors and friends who've made — and continue to make — the dream of education possible for students at DU.

“We love it!”

Sleek new Grand Rapids main campus gets rave reviews from everyone

Clockwise from top: students meet and study in lounge areas of the Margaret Davenport Sneden Library Information Commons, relax in their room in the Peter C. & Pat Cook Residence Hall, and enjoy lunch in the canteen in the Donald W. Maine Student Center.
Clockwise from upper left: Students at the entrance of the Richard M. DeVos and Jay Van Andel Academic Building, and in the Tyrus R. Wessell Bookstore, fitness center, library information commons, and residence hall.
At the fifth annual Excellence in Business gala, Spence Maidlow, president and chief executive officer of Covenant HealthCare System, was honored as the 2006 recipient of the Wallace J. Bronner Excellence in Business Award. Congratulations, Spence!

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Thank you, Gib Rooney!

We offer our special thanks to Gib Rooney, a long-time member of the Davenport University Foundation Board of Trustees, who retired from the board this year. We appreciate your dedication to the students of Davenport and your leadership!

Tributes for Mr. Fred E. Vandenberg

A long-time friend of Davenport University, Fred Vandenberg passed away last June. He was a valued member of the University’s board of trustees and was chairman of the board for many years. He and his wife endowed the Fred and Gretchen Vandenberg Scholarship and generously contributed to the University Foundation since its inception in 1982. The donors listed below have given gifts to the University in his memory.

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Members of this club are recognized for their generous support of the University through deferred or estate plan gifts. These donors have contributed substantially toward Davenport’s long-term growth and its vitality for years to come. The Legacy Club allows the University to thank donors today for the gifts of tomorrow, which will benefit our students long into the future.

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The University is deeply appreciative of the support received toward endowed and annual scholarships. Scholarship giving provides a direct impact on the lives of many DU students. This lasting vote of confidence creates an important link between our students and the generous supporters who make these funds possible.

In gratitude, we recognize the following:

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We have taken great care to ensure the accuracy of our donor honor roll. Please call the Foundation at (616) 233-3409 if an error has been made. Thank You.
Movin’ in style
DU Move-in Day, September 1, 2006

On a cloudy September first, more than 50 alumni, staff, faculty, and friends of the University donned red “DU Move-in Crew” T-shirts and got down to business. Their job? Moving students into their temporary home for the year, a.k.a. the residence hall.

It was a great example of Davenport hospitality. It was also a tremendous help to students and their families, some of whom sometimes seemed overwhelmed by this transition to college life. In fact, both students and their families seemed a little blown away by the assistance — and by how much help they got in unloading their cars and taking their belongings to the rooms.

“Davenport staff made it extremely easy to move in,” said Rafael Corral, a first-year student from Battle Creek. “I had a lot of boxes and heavy things. What took them 10 minutes would’ve taken me 30 minutes or longer.”

All the volunteers worked hard and were glad to help out, but DU grads were especially moved by the experience. They thoroughly enjoyed the chance to see the new residence hall facilities and interact with the students. They felt they truly were providing a great — and much appreciated — service.

After all that work was a welcome picnic for everyone — students, families, and volunteers alike — to welcome the students and officially kick-off the new school year. A tour of Grand Rapids hot-spots capped off the day’s events.

Davenport students also received discount coupons for 20% off at the local Meijer and Target stores to assist in furnishing their new, temporary homes.
“Kids in the hall
Residence hall living suits them just fine

“I had prepared myself for the worst when it came to living with three other girls, let alone three girls I had never met before. Somehow Justin (TeBrake) figured each of us out and made an amazing placement. It feels like I’ve known these girls my whole life. We just seem to fit together perfectly.”
— Caitlin MacNeil
Freshman, Kentwood

“It’s nice to live on your own and have some real ‘college life’ experiences. The dorms are awesome. Everyone has their own room and shares a living room, kitchen, and bathroom, so they’re more like apartments! I’m so glad I made the decision to live on campus at Davenport this year.”
— Kristin Bergsma
Sophomore, Grand Rapids

“It’s great being able to hang out in the living room, and when I want privacy, I can just go to my room. I hardly ever hear people talking in the halls and I live right next to the receptionist. It is good that there is someone at the desk 24/7; it really makes me feel safe.”
— Rafael Corral
Freshman, Battle Creek
Since establishing new admission standards this fall, we’ve enrolled the biggest, brightest freshman class ever.

A record 585 new high-school grads enrolled this year, and they boast an average GPA of 3.03 with an average ACT score of 21.4. The main campus has a slightly better story: The 313 high-school grads there have an average 3.19 GPA and an average ACT of 21.9.

Where they come from

Five large suburban schools and one Christian high school local to Grand Rapids sent double-digit numbers of their grads to DU this fall:

- East Kentwood: 27
- Grandville: 20
- Caledonia: 15
- South Christian: 14
- Wayland: 13
- Rockford: 10

Forty-two other schools from all over the state sent us between two and eight of their graduated seniors. We’ve also enrolled eight students from international high schools.

The word is out

Smart, talented students are choosing DU. The new admission standards will help make sure they’re prepared to succeed. The word is out: DU is a high-quality university that’s becoming the choice of students who are serious about succeeding in business, technology, and health careers.

In less than a minute you can change the life of a DU student.

Visit giving.davenport.edu

Make a living.
Make a life.
Make a contribution.

University Advancement
(866) 248-0012
Come cheer on the Saginaw Spirit hockey team as they face-off against the Erie Otters.

Saturday, February 3, 2007
Dow Event Center, 303 Johnson St.
Saginaw, MI
5:00 p.m. – Pre-Game Reception
7:00 p.m. – Game

Join fellow alumni, students, staff, faculty and friends for a fun-filled pre-game reception, including food, prizes, and tons of fun! Come early to participate in all of the exciting student vs. alumni competitions and help your team win the coveted Challenge Cup.

Then take your seats to enjoy all the great hockey action. Remember, Davenport is the "University of Choice" for Spirit players, so we want to show our students that we support them — LOUD and PROUD!

Ticket Prices

$5 Seating in the Davenport Spirit Section — Children under 12 and Davenport Students with valid ID

$10 Seating in the Davenport Spirit Section — Adults

$15 Rink-side Suite Seating — Includes complimentary food and beverages. Space in the suite is limited and reserved for Alumni and their guests 21 years and older.

Reservations will be taken on a first come first serve basis. To purchase your tickets on-line visit www.davenport.edu/alumnicalendar.

Contact Susan Proctor at 866.248.0012 or susan.proctor@davenport.edu with questions or for further information.