Davenport University
Make a living...Make a life... Make a contribution

Groundbreaking!
W.A. Lettinga Campus
On June 18 we held the groundbreaking ceremony for Davenport University’s new main campus — the W.A. Lettinga Campus — yet another milestone for this great university. The new campus marks the largest construction project in our 138-year history.

A groundbreaking ceremony is intended to excite people about a vision of what will rise from the earth. But a vision can only become a reality if it is embraced by others who share in the idea and believe in the value of what is being built. On this sunny day, we had a chance to come together to share what this campus, this vision, means for our students.

The founder of our present day university — M.E. Davenport — had a vision that everyone should have an opportunity to advance through education. We adhere to this vision by reinforcing in students their desire for learning and their willingness to work hard. We help students unearth their latent skills, talents, and determination to succeed in the classroom and the workplace. This vision is reflected in our motto: Make a Living, Make a Life, Make a Contribution. Our founder’s vision will be embodied at the new campus in the Margaret Sneden Library and Technology Center. Margaret Sneden was the daughter of M.E. Davenport.

Davenport University alumnus Peter Cook, whose graciousness, generosity and civic mindedness are a steadfast reminder what an opportunity for an education can mean to a community, attended the ceremony. Davenport University gave a young Peter Cook the chance to pursue a higher education that fueled a journey of success he could hardly have imagined when he attended Davenport in the 1930s. The Peter and Pat Cook Student Housing will be a constant reminder to our students that, through determination, hard work and perseverance, you can give yourself the opportunity to achieve success beyond your wildest imagination.

Rich DeVos and Jay VanAndel have dedicated their lives to giving others opportunities to be successful. Like Davenport University, the great enterprise that Mr. DeVos and Mr. VanAndel built is all about giving people an opportunity to make their dreams come true. The Rich DeVos and Jay VanAndel Academic Center will be a testimony to the greatness that can be achieved in business in a nation that offers the freedom to pursue personal ambition.

Wilbur A. Lettinga, whom we know as Bill, is a man who has remained unwavering in his loyalty to Davenport. He has an abiding and genuine interest in keeping the Davenport spirit bright and alive for generations to come. Bill graduated from Davenport in 1955 and has served as a trustee for close to three decades; he has been a part of many changes.

Bill stands by this new administration and has given us a chance to prove ourselves, which has meant taking different paths. Yet he remains youthfully open and accepting of new ways. He embraces an idea based upon its quality and merit; he respects hard work that goes into making an idea a reality. Bill’s acceptance of new ideas allows new visions to grow, like this new campus. It is therefore a tribute and a great honor to have the campus bear his name: The W.A. Lettinga Campus will stand in recognition of Bill’s dedication to his alma mater and its values.

Before we left the site on the day of celebration, we asked those present to imagine what will soon be standing on this spot. There will be students bustling about this 43-acre site pursuing their dreams, knowing that hard work and perseverance is a formula to achieve success beyond their wildest imagination. Imagine, decades from now: Who will be the Snedens, Cooks, DeVoses, VanAndels and Lettingas that will continue to make Davenport great and play integral roles in making student visions become reality?
GROUNDBREAKING: Davenport University’s W.A. Lettinga Campus

A groundbreaking ceremony for Davenport University’s W.A. Lettinga Campus was held Friday, June 18, 2004. Staff, faculty and friends of Davenport congregated near the vast pile of dirt at 6191 Kraft Avenue, which will, in little over a year, become the University’s new main campus. The $22 million project, in Caledonia Township, is the largest in the University’s history.

Sen. Bill Hardiman, Rep. Mike Sak, representatives of the architectural design and construction companies, and several Davenport University trustees and their family members were among those who turned out to celebrate Davenport’s growth. After a welcome from Colleen Wolfe, group vice president, Davenport University President Randolph Flechsig spoke about the new campus. “The Lettinga Campus is the most ambitious project in Davenport’s history,” explained Flechsig. “Our new campus will increase our value to students, be another asset to our West Michigan community, and further support employers with highly trained business graduates who will contribute to our economy.”

The Lettinga Campus is named for Wilbur A. Lettinga, chairman and CEO of Kentland Corp., a successful Grand Rapids business leader, a 1955 Davenport University graduate, and a university benefactor. “Davenport has been a major part of my life, and I’m grateful to have an opportunity to give back,” Lettinga remarked. “I believe strongly in the University’s mission of practical education that prepares students for successful careers and I’m excited to see Davenport keep growing.”

The new campus is very visible and will be easily accessible from the Broadmoor exit off of the new South Beltine/M6. The highlight of the campus will be the 127,000-square-foot, three-story Richard M. DeVos and Jay Van Andel Academic Building, the first building to be named for both co-founders of Amway. Within the academic building will be the Margaret Sneden Library and Technology Center, in honor of a gift from the M.E. Davenport Family Foundation, and food service and a fitness center. Also located on-campus will be the Peter and Pat Cook Residence Hall, providing apartment-style living for 80 students, and an outdoor walking trail.

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Davenport University’s W.A. Lettinga Campus is designed to serve up to 2400 students during this initial phase, and an eventual enrollment of 4000 after the addition of more classrooms and laboratories, two more residence halls and a gymnasium. The University expects roughly 2000 students for the campus’ opening in fall 2005. In describing the features of the new campus, Mike VanGessel, president of Rockford Construction, spoke at length about environmental integrity. VanGessel noted that the campus is located with preservation of wetlands, grasses and plants in mind, and that the buildings will rely greatly on natural geo-thermal energy sources and the latest energy- and water-efficiency technology to reduce consumption far below building code compliance.

The University’s presence in downtown Grand Rapids will remain and enhancements are planned for the Fulton Street campus, which will continue to house Davenport’s administrative headquarters and provide academic opportunities for students. This campus will be named for Glenn D. Steil, CEO of Compatico and a generous Davenport University supporter and graduate.

Breaking ground at the W.A. Lettinga Campus are Colleen Wolfe, Davenport University group vice president; Mike VanGessel, president, Rockford Construction Company; Jim Meyer, chairman, Davenport University Board of Trustees; Glenn D. Steil; Barbara Steil; Sharon Lettinga; Wilbur A. Lettinga, secretary, Davenport University Board of Trustees; Randolph Flechsig, Davenport University President; and Barbara Mieras, Ph.D., Davenport University executive vice president for advancement and president of the foundation.
In light of education, in light of diversity, in light of the state of the world, it seems appropriate to share the invocation given during the Davenport University 2004 Commencement by Rabbi David J.B. Krishef, Congregation Ahavas Israel, in Grand Rapids, Mich. Rabbi Krishef notes that this invocation is based on a prayer by his colleague, Rabbi Stanley Greenstein.

“When I accepted the honor of sharing an invocation at this evening’s commencement ceremony, I was told that Davenport has among the most, if not the most, religiously and ethnically diverse student bodies in West Michigan. This coming May 17 will be the 50th anniversary of *Brown v. Board of Education*, the landmark decision affirming that separate is not equal.

Keeping in mind that we are here today as people of various colors and origins and theologies, black and white, young and old, Asian, European, African and American, believers in a divine being and non-theists, I’d like to invoke the Divine presence among us to reaffirm the wisdom of learning side by side with those who are unlike ourselves.

Almighty God, *Ayl Shadai*, in the secret wisdom with which we are made — we know not why — human beings are naturally stubborn. We have strong opinions on everything from clothes of a favorite color to foods of a certain type, to sports teams, movies and television programs, actors and actresses, hair color and body types, politics and religion.

Sometimes, God, these strong opinions lead us to regard with suspicion and prejudice those who do not dress like ourselves, behave like ourselves, look like our selves, vote like ourselves, behave like ourselves.

We have learned, however, from the greatest of our religious and civil teachings that we cannot live in prejudice. Hatred destroys us; it pollutes our world, it divides and never unites. **Separate is not equal.** Detached and isolated, unengaged and uneducated, are not values for which this country or the free nations of the world stand. To be truly and fully human means to be in a community of people who embrace and celebrate difference.

On this sacred day of the completion of a course of study, we have gathered to celebrate the acquisition of **wisdom**, available to all people of our nation, as well as to people from other parts of the world who come to our shores seeking to learn with us. Wisdom fights prejudice; only education fights hatred. We have come here in part because **Democracy requires** an educated population; the world needs wise and skillful men and women working **together** for peace and freedom.

Therefore, let the brave and learned graduates here, whose wisdom we celebrate, go out from this gathering, determined to improve the quality and equality of our way of life. Let us stand proudly in our diversity as a beacon for all times and all peoples, and let us go forth and build one community of nations, under God, with one liberty and one justice for all.

Amen.”
Davenport University 2004 COMMENCEMENT

Honorary Doctor of Laws conferred

Davenport University recognizes leaders in business who have achieved success in their field and have demonstrated accomplishments that support the mission and vision of the University. The Governing Board of Trustees distinguishes Edward Blews, president, Association of Independent Colleges and Universities in Michigan (AICUM), and Ned Fawaz, founder, president and CEO of Energy International Corporation and member of the Davenport University Foundation Board of Trustees, for their accomplishments and is proud to confer upon each the Davenport University Honorary Doctor of Laws degree.

Edward Blews and Ned Fawaz truly exemplify the Davenport University motto: Make a living, Make a life, Make a contribution.
Students Speak: Commencement 2004

“Starting school? Starting over? Start here. Reinvent U. It’s great to know that on any given day, you can start on a path to reinvent yourself.”

— Donna Waller, Davenport University-Dearborn, management leadership

“Excellence is a lifelong process and philosophy. It does not come over night, and it is not always easy to attain, but it is always worth it. If one has not pursued excellence, it is there to begin pursuing today.”

— Melissa Jourden, Davenport University-Lansing, electronics commerce

“Our educational journey has taught us many things about life: perseverance, compassion, respect, teamwork, honesty and friendship — all molding and shaping us. Our journey is one we have all struggled with and worked very hard to achieve.”

— Dawn E. Martinski, Davenport University-Midland, general management
**Nurses Pinning ceremony: Midland**

The annual pinning ceremony is a strong tradition within the Davenport University nursing program. The nurses pin symbolizes to the public that a nurse has met the criteria, established by the state board of nursing, to practice nursing. The pins, each designed by the nursing school, designate the different levels of completion with a Level I pin for the Licensed Practical Nurse, or LPN; a Level II pin for the associate’s degree Registered Nurse, or RN; and yet another pin for the Bachelor of Science Nursing completion graduate, who is already an RN and shows a continued commitment to advancement in the profession.
Graduation day for Ningbo/Humber/Davenport students

In early May, nine students from Humber College of Technology and Advanced Learning in Toronto, Ontario, Canada, participated in the Davenport University commencement at Van Andel Arena in Grand Rapids. Accompanied by two Humber College staff representatives, the students celebrated their graduation and enjoyed activities throughout the week.

On Monday of commencement week, the students and visitors enjoyed a traditional Chinese dinner at Yen Ching restaurant in downtown Grand Rapids. Tuesday afternoon, they were treated to a luncheon hosted by Davenport University Online in the Warren Hall dining room. After a tour of the campus, they attended the International Student Reception, hosted by the Grand Rapids campus, where the students received words of wisdom and congratulations from Davenport University President Randolph Flechsig and Robert Funaro, Ed.D., executive vice president for academics and provost.

Along with seven others who could not attend commencement, these students completed their Bachelor of Business Administration degree in International Business through a joint partnership with Ningbo University in China, Humber College in Canada, and Davenport University. After finishing their two-year course of study at Ningbo University, the students came to Toronto for the next two years, during which they took one year of study directly from Humber College and one through DU Online. The graduation rate for this group of highly motivated students is 100% and the very successful partnership program has enrolled more than 25 new students for fall 2004.

Students participating under this partnership are fortunate: Davenport University’s programs provide them with the great opportunity to study abroad and obtain Western degrees in North America. Since China joined the World Trade Organization last year, there has been great demand in various business sectors for qualified personnel who are trained in the West; experience from both North America and the East augurs well for business management and operations.

The recent graduates expressed that their online learning experience was great and they are very excited to take home what they learned from Davenport University. Plans are underway by these students to organize the first Davenport University Alumni Association in China. Travelers to China may soon find a Davenport connection — or, as the Chinese call it, “Guanxi.”

The students found graduation to be a very positive and rewarding experience, drawing to a close a very busy nine months of intense online learning. As they walked across the stage during the commencement ceremony, these students reflected on their learning experiences at Davenport. The students left Toronto mid-May to return to China and seek employment in their home country, determined to take home the Davenport Way and “Make a living, Make a life, Make a contribution.”
EIB features Terry Bradshaw, raises scholarship funds, honors Robert Hooker

The seventh annual Davenport University Excellence in Business Dinner Gala, held on May 14, 2004, raised more than $115,000 for student scholarships in West Michigan. Nearly 1000 guests enjoyed Terry Bradshaw’s humor and supported Robert Hooker as he was presented with the 2004 Peter C. Cook Excellence in Business Award.

Glenn and Barbara Steil were the masters of ceremony and Lem Barney, former Detroit Lion’s cornerback, offered the invocation. Guests heard from several representatives of the University, including President Randolph Flechsig; Barbara Mieras, Ph.D., executive vice president for advancement and president of the foundation; and Patrick Czerew, a Davenport student and scholarship recipient. Guests also enjoyed an afterglow reception with music by Replay.

Peter Cook, chair of Cook Holdings and Hooker business partner, began the award portion of the ceremony with a glowing and personal introduction of Robert Hooker, vice chair of C&H Holdings. Former award recipients Wilbur A. Lettinga and John Spoelhof also took part in the award ceremony. Hooker and his wife, Judy, have been generous supporters of Davenport University, Davenport students, and the community.

It is an honor for Davenport University to add Robert Hooker to the remarkable list of Peter C. Cook Excellence in Business Award recipients:

1998 Peter C. Cook
1999 Fred Meijer
2000 Richard M. DeVos
2001 Wilbur A. Lettinga
2002 David Frey
2003 John Spoelhof
2004 Robert L. Hooker

For more information or to be placed on the mailing list for the next Excellence in Business Dinner Gala, please contact Stephanie Hehl, director of development operations, at (616) 233-3414.

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Ningbo University: Partnership and progress

Representatives from Ningbo University in Ningbo, Zhejiang, China, were guests of Davenport University from June 13–15, 2004. The delegation consisted of Ningbo University’s vice president, provost and academic affairs, and associate dean of the International College.

Ningbo University is one of Davenport University’s international partners. In the past three years, Ningbo has sent their students to North America to pursue a Davenport University BBA in a 2+1+1 program involving Davenport University and Humber College in Toronto, Ontario, Canada. Students spend two years studying their designated courses at Ningbo University and one year on designated courses at Humber College before completing their final, Davenport University year through DU Online.

During the visit, Davenport University and Ningbo University reviewed their partnership to date. Both universities have expressed the interest and intent to expand the current program to the next level, looking forward to its future potentials. Davenport University Board of Trustees members, Davenport University President Randolph Flechsig, and other Davenport senior administrators met the Ningbo guests and recognized the progress made thus far.

Global partnership: Guests from York College of Business visit DU

In May, three guests from York College of Business in Toronto, Ontario, Canada, visited Davenport University in Grand Rapids. They attended the May 4 Davenport commencement ceremony at Van Andel Arena and were enthusiastic about the students who walked across the stage, celebrating their success and achievements as Davenport University graduates.

York College of Business is a leading business education institution. York is driven by a team of business educators and experts with well-rounded expertise in the design and delivery of business and vocational programs and university transfer programs, nationally and internationally.

Davenport University signed an articulation agreement with York College of Business on May 5, 2004, to partner together through joint programs. Besides their regular academic programs, YCB will offer the pre-master’s program, allowing YCB graduates to gain transfer credits toward the MBA program at Davenport either through study at the University or through DU Online. Historically, York College of Business has attracted many international students; Davenport University’s BBA and MBA programs will be a great draw and a continuation of their programs.

“I am excited about our partnership and our students will benefit from our joint programs,” remarked Keith J. Nixon, honorary president and chair of the Academic Advisory Board of York College of Business.

“It is a win-win partnership.”

Present for the signing of the articulation agreement between Davenport University and York College of Business are, seated, Timothy Tse, chairman of York International Group; Randolph K. Flechsig, Davenport University president; Kenneth Chan, YCB chair and CEO and, standing, Keith J. Nixon, YCB honorary president; Kate Noone, DU vice president for online and international programs; and Robert Funaro, Ed.D., DU executive vice president for academics and provost.
China’s LRTVU visits Dearborn

A delegation of six representatives of Liaoning Radio & Television University in China visited Davenport University-Dearborn in the spring. Mr. Yu Keqian, LRTVU vice president, led the delegation of top LRTVU officials who talked with Kate Noone, Davenport University group vice president for online and international programs, about partnerships and joint programs. Mike Zhang, Davenport University director of diversity and cultural affairs, was also at the meeting and served as an interpreter.

LRTVU has had a partnership with Mohawk College in Hamilton, Ontario, Canada for the past two years and will partner with Davenport University in a 2+1+1 agreement. Students from LRTVU will complete two years of study in China before starting their North American learning experience with one year of study at Mohawk College and another of online study with Davenport University. Ten students are currently in the process of obtaining their Visas to study in Canada and are expected to start next semester at Mohawk College.

LRTVU intends to work with Davenport University to bring the University’s online programs to their campuses. LRTVU currently has 10,700 students, with 123 majors. After China joined the World Trade Organization last year, the demand for such majors as international business and international business law is at an all-time high. Davenport University and LRTVU will work closely to develop partnerships and programs for the benefits of the students at these institutions. The LRTVU guests specifically requested an American flag be sent to them, to be displayed on their campus to showcase this friendship.

Davenport University signs articulation agreement with Dearborn Public Schools

Davenport University and Dearborn Public Schools signed an articulation agreement on June 8, 2004. Dearborn Public Schools students enrolled in classes under the agreement will now be able to receive transfer credit for the secondary class upon enrollment at Davenport University. Classes for which students can receive transfer credit include CISP101, Computer Foundations; BIOL100, Biology and Chemistry; and MATH310, College Algebra.

Lynda Wonn, Davenport University-Dearborn academic dean, and John Artis, Ph.D., Dearborn Public Schools superintendent, signed the agreement that will take effect in the 2004-2005 school year. Davenport University administrators and faculty joined several DPS administrators to witness the signing. The agreement is an incredible opportunity for DPS students and another example of the University’s support and promotion of community relations.
Davenport University-Flint: New campus

Davenport University-Flint is proud to announce their impending new location, at 4318 Miller Road, next to the Genesee Valley Mall. A former EDS building will be completely renovated to allow for the new Davenport University-Flint. The project, costing approximately $500,000, is being handled by architect Gunn Levine Associates of Saginaw and construction manager R.L. White Construction. The project is scheduled for completion before fall classes start on August 25, 2004.

The new, 15,000-square-foot Flint campus will house eight dedicated classrooms, including four computer labs, as well as faculty and staff offices and student study areas. Classrooms will feature flexible seating and the latest in educational delivery technologies. The centerpiece of the building will be a 1200-square-foot, state-of-the-art media/learning center. Enrollment at the new Flint location is expected to double to 400 students in the next year.

“Our decision to relocate was based on our desire to provide a facility that is modern, convenient, and offers our students and the community an environment where learning is the primary focus,” said John Czarnecki, group vice president. “The new Flint campus will offer convenience, classrooms, parking, and technology needed for Davenport’s continued growth in the Flint community.”

“This is an exciting move for our students, faculty and staff,” remarked Wilma Mitchell, executive director, Flint. “Davenport is firmly committed to the Flint community and our new campus will be a wonderful reflection of that commitment.”

Barbara Mieras wins statewide award

Barbara Mieras, Ph.D., executive vice president for advancement and president of the Davenport University Foundation, received the Michigan Distinguished Woman in Higher Education Leadership Award from the Michigan American Council on Education (ACE) Network for Women Leaders in Higher Education. The award was created to honor Michigan women who have distinguished themselves by providing outstanding leadership to women in their institutions, in their profession and to society at large. The selection process is very rigorous and begins with soliciting nominations from member institutions of Michigan ACE. From the nominations four finalists are chosen by the screening committee chair and the Michigan ACE Network State Coordinator make the final selection. Dr. Mieras, nominated by Davenport University President Randolph Flechsig, most certainly meets the award criteria including "an evident philosophy of helping other women that goes beyond job responsibilities, a reputation for fairness, equity, and justice that is based on actions on behalf of women, and attaining a higher education leadership position in which the nominee serves as an inspiration or role model for other women." Mieras has also been recognized in the past for her inspiration to women: In 1999, Davenport was recognized with the Women in the Workplace “Shattering the Glass Ceiling” award; Mieras was recognized by Business Direct Weekly as one of the “most influential women in Western Michigan,” and she received the Western Michigan University Distinguished Alumni Award that same year. Mieras has also received the Crystal Apple Award from Michigan State University College of Education for her outstanding educational leadership.

Mieras has been with Davenport University since 1984, serving in a variety of leadership positions. She has served in many community leadership positions, as well, and is currently chair of the board of Founders Trust Personal Bank. President Flechsig said, “I believe that Dr. Mieras has most definitely distinguished herself as an outstanding leader at Davenport University, in her profession, and in her community.”

The award was presented to Mieras on June 15, 2004, at the organization’s annual “Framing Our Future” conference. More than 200 women educational leaders representing 34 different colleges and universities attended the conference. Mieras serves as an inspiration and role model to all of us at Davenport University. Congratulations, Barbara Mieras.
DU-Gaylord’s Simpson receives Athena Award

The Gaylord/Otsego County Chamber of Commerce honored Sheila Simpson, career and education specialist at Davenport University-Gaylord, as the recipient of the 2004 Athena Award on May 19, 2004. The Athena Award is presented annually to honor the outstanding achievements of business and professional women in the community who demonstrate professional excellence and significant community service and offer active and generous assistance to women in attaining their full potential.

“It was the last thing I expected”, commented Simpson, who remarked that the highlight of her job is meeting students from all different backgrounds and being inspired by each one who walks through the door. “It is a joy to celebrate with the students when they succeed through challenges and graduate.”

In addition to her role at Davenport, Simpson currently serves as president of the Otsego Memorial Hospital Board of Directors, works closely with the Leadership Otsego County program, has been actively involved in the United Way Annual Campaign and two hospital capital campaigns, and is a former executive board member of the Otsego County Commission on Aging. She is a regular presenter on healthcare-related topics to civic, church, business and healthcare agencies and also serves in a variety of different ministries at St. Mary Cathedral Church. “This is such a rich community of volunteers and people have inspired me along the way to do what I can,” commented Simpson. “To receive such a lovely award is very humbling.”

Before joining the Dav enport in 1999, Simpson was employed in hospice administration for several local agencies, as well as Hospice of Michigan. Prior to that, she worked in speech pathology with several schools in the Lansing area. Simpson graduated from Michigan State University with bachelor’s and master’s degrees in speech and language pathology.

Warren student and faculty awards presented

David Gillespie, Ph.D., named Instructor of the Year

David Gillespie, Ph.D., of Huntington Woods, Mich., was named Instructor of the Year by the students at Davenport University-Warren. Dr. Gillespie, an instructor in the social sciences department, has been with the University since 1984. This is the fourth time the students have selected him as Instructor of the Year. He was previously selected for this honor in 1996, 1998 and 2002.

Gillespie has a doctorate in educational psychology from Wayne State University and earned a Master of Arts in clinical psychology from Central Michigan University. He graduated cum laude from Wayne State University with a Bachelor of Arts in psychology.

In addition to teaching at Davenport University, Gillespie taught graduate psychology courses at Wayne State University and was a therapist at Evergreen Counseling Center and staff psychologist at Jewish Vocational Services. He worked for the State of Michigan, Department of Education, as a psychological examiner and was a staff psychologist at Northeast Guidance Center. Gillespie was a member of Davenport’s assessment and evaluation committees, served on the search committee for academic dean, and acted as sports club advisor. Gillespie is responsible for five professional publications and numerous professional presentations for the American Psychological Associations and the Michigan Rehabilitation Conference.

Timothy A. Johnson named Student of the Year

As president of the CIS Club, Timothy A. Johnson has been instrumental in quadrupling the club’s membership over the past year. Club members participated in a successful fund-raiser that resulted in their sponsorship of two student representatives to the Microsoft Security Seminar in Detroit in March 2004. The club built a website as a vehicle to communicate with CIS club members and other students. The site, CITSociety.com, will be used to share professional information and will have message board.

“We hope to enter into a course technology textbook website competition,” said Johnson, a CIS major with high academic standing who is also the Chair Elect for the Presidents’ Council. “Based on the creativity of our club members, I believe we have a good chance of placing high in design and technical aspects in the competition.”

Other honors

Davenport University-Warren lauded several students and faculty this spring. The Service Learning Instructor Leadership Award was given to Lynda Flood, accounting, for her leadership in the IRS Volunteer Income Tax Assistance project. Joyce Taylor was honored as the Accounting Student of the Year. The CIS Club Leadership award went to Timothy A. Johnson. CIS Club Service Awards were presented to Ryan Burbo, Tasha Owens, and Dwayne Plaunt. The CISCO Leadership Award was given to Mark Magreta, while CISCO Service Awards went to Matthew Burch, Michael Hansberry, and Tracey Wilson. Arneatha Reynolds was the recipient of the Davenport Women Unite Leadership Award.
The Gamma Gamma chapter of Alpha Beta Gamma, Davenport University-Merrillville, made quite a splash at the 2004 National Leadership Conference. The conference, held at the Reef Club in Playa del Carmen, Mexico, April 15-19, was attended by 78 Alpha Beta Gammans and advisors.

The Gamma Gamma chapter was honored with Alpha Beta Gamma’s The Golden Key. The most coveted of the six chapter awards, it is awarded to the most outstanding chapter in the nation. The Golden Key honors the chapter that displays overall excellence and serves as a model chapter for others to emulate. In its 10 year history, Gamma Gamma has been awarded the Golden Key twice before. Alpha Beta Gamma encompasses more than 150 chapters internationally and has over 160,000 members. Earning this award is truly a great honor.

Curtis Jones was elected National Student Vice President. Jones graduated with associate’s degrees in accounting and management and is currently working toward a bachelor’s degree in management.

Janet Gasperson won the Dr. Mary Bone Competitive Essay Award for her composition, “What ABG Means to Me.” Gasperson will receive a $500 stipend and a plaque. She was also awarded the Eva Bobrow Medallion of Excellence for her outstanding service as the 2003 Gamma Gamma chapter president. Gasperson is a 2003 graduate in health insurance claims management and is employed as a customer service specialist at DU-Merrillville.

Marylou Mamrila won the Peter J. Gleason Essay Award for her paper on “Business and the Environment, Today and in Ten Years.” Mamrila will receive a $300 stipend and a plaque. She is pursuing an associate’s degree in marketing.

Kingley Vibert, the 2003 National Student President, was awarded the Professor Steve Graham Award. Vibert will receive a $200 stipend and a plaque. He is a 2003 graduate, with a degree in marketing. Vibert just published a book, “Roses Bloom When Brainstorm (The Book).” This book is an example of hip-hop literature, an extension of hip-hop culture, and will be available this summer. Gamma Gamma is very proud of their first student-author.

Gaye Andersen, Gamma Gamma chapter advisor and career and education advisor at Merrillville, was renamed editor-in-chief of the Honors Journal and retains her seat on the National Executive Board and the Scholarship Committee. Andersen won an award for the best faculty/advisor workshop presentation at the conference.

Danielle Yakovetz, career and education advisor, Merrillville, will serve as assistant editor for the Honors Journal. Yakovetz is completing her bachelor’s degree in computer support technology.

In addition to all of the honors and awards, the conference provided members with an excellent opportunity to network and meet with students from all over the United States and Mexico. The workshops were educational and exciting; all members came home with new ideas and experiences.

Alpha Beta Gamma is a member of the Association of College Honor Societies. ABG members are placed on the National Dean’s List. The Gamma Gamma chapter in Merrillville was chartered in 1994 and has inducted more than 500 members over the past 10 years. Gamma Gamma’s approximately 90 current members are extremely active in campus and community events.

The two student award recipients will receive a commemorative award medallion made of sculpted brass and embedded in a Lucite paperweight; a one-year subscription to The Wall Street Journal, in print and online; a published listing of the winners’ names and colleges in a full-page announcement in The Wall Street Journal; and a congratulatory letter from The Wall Street Journal.

Davenport University will be recognized through a handsome walnut display plaque with brass nameplates for the two winners and a published listing with our university and winners’ names in a full-page announcement in The Wall Street Journal. The award winners and commended nominees will also receive a special congratulatory letter from Davenport University President Randolph Flechsig.
A SURE thing

Several students from Davenport University’s Dearborn, Midland, Saginaw and Warren campuses were participants in the Students United for Retention and Excellence program, designed to help them succeed in their educational goals and their lives. Through a state-funded grant, SURE allows the University to help economically and academically disadvantaged students reach their goals. SURE focuses on retention. The grant seeks to enable these students to remain in school through support and services received from this program.

SURE participants met for educational sessions that covered topics including self-esteem, teamwork, time management, critical thinking and diversity. Several Davenport University staff and faculty members acted as facilitators, presenters and tutors during the program and shared their real-life experience and invaluable knowledge with the students. Each SURE student was paired with a dedicated mentor; also a Davenport faculty or staff member, who supported their efforts and gave them someone to talk to about their concerns. “Mentoring was a positive experience for me,” noted Dolores Skladanowski, customer service manager, Warren. “I feel that I had a direct role in supporting my student. She was able to achieve her goals…and that makes me happy.”

A celebration luncheon at the end of the SURE program was held in Grand Rapids. Students were welcomed to the program and shared their real-life experiences and invaluable knowledge with the students. Each SURE student was paired with a dedicated mentor; also a Davenport faculty or staff member, who supported their efforts and gave them someone to talk to about their concerns. “Mentoring was a positive experience for me,” noted Dolores Skladanowski, customer service manager, Warren. “I feel that I had a direct role in supporting my student. She was able to achieve her goals…and that makes me happy.”

A SURE thing

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A celebration luncheon at the end of the SURE program was held in Grand Rapids. Students were welcomed to the event by Robert Funaro, Ed.D., executive vice president for academics and provost. Julie Baker, an author and motivational speaker, offered words of encouragement to the students; those who completed the SURE program each received a certificate of completion and a Franklin Planner for the effort. Three SURE students spoke to those in attendance about their personal SURE experiences.

The SURE program is just a beginning for these students. As part of the program’s goal, they will continue to receive support from their mentors and program staff while attending Davenport University; they may also continue to receive tutoring assistance. Those students who remain at Davenport next year — committed to succeed with the University — will be invited to continue with the SURE program, perhaps as peer facilitators.

Program ELITE students recognized

Davenport University-Kalamazoo hosted a banquet to recognize the achievements of the participants of Program ELITE (Emerging Leaders in Today’s Environment). These student participants had an outstanding semester: Each raised their grade point average significantly, became more involved in their community, and found a renewed commitment to school.

Honoring students, Program ELITE coordinators Enjoli Hampton-Brown, career and education advisor, and LaJoyce Huntley, registration specialist, congratulated the students and presented each with a certificate of achievement. As a special touch, the coordinators prepared an inspirational video presentation that illustrated the personal growth each student achieved.

Program ELITE, funded by the Kalama-zoo Community Foun-
adation, is aimed at helping students who are economically and academically disadvantaged to succeed. The semester-long Program ELITE is designed as a mentoring/retention program to provide encouragement and social development and develop the professionalism necessary for students to successfully complete their degrees and become productive citizens in their communities.

Kelvin Frizzell (left) receives the third place award in Cisco Systems Administration.

Barbara Gering
Administrative Support Concepts
2nd place
Financial Analyst Team 4th place

Bob Hernandez
Network Design Team 4th place

Melissa Marshall
Human Resource Management 5th place

Michelle Merriman
Payroll Accounting 5th place

Tom Stouffer
Financial Analyst Team 4th place

Jeremy Williams
Network Design Team Finalist

Nick Buiter
Management/Marketing/Human

Shalonda Kellum with the Program ELITE certificate of achievement. Willian Jackson receives his Program ELITE certificate of achievement from Enjoli Hampton-Brown, career and education advisor. Enjoli Hampton-Brown honors Shalonda Kellum with the Program ELITE certificate of achievement.
GRAPCEP sends teams to Michigan Aerospace Challenge

The Grand Rapids Area Pre-College Engineering Program’s curriculum specialists, Christy Heid, Ph.D., and Miguel Abrahantes, traveled to Muskegon, Mich., with four rocketry teams from Union High School and Iroquois Middle School to participate in the Michigan Aerospace Challenge.

To prepare for the two-day competition, the GRAPCEP staff and teachers worked with the students for several months, guiding them to apply their knowledge and technical skills as they carefully constructed and designed their rockets. Students also calculated the expected altitude, designed a payload, created a display that explains the scientific principles involved in rocketry, prepared an oral presentation, and developed an informational website: http://www.grps.k12.mi.us/~iroquois/rocketeam/2004/homepage.spm. Some students also competed for a special written altitude determination test, given as part of the event.

The teams’ rockets were judged along with 23 other high power rockets built by middle and high school student teams from throughout Michigan. Students had the opportunity at the event to meet members of the Tuskegee Airmen, black military aviators who served in the Army Air Corps and flew in World War II.

On the second day of the competition each team launched their high power rocket, watched it reach an altitude of around 3000 feet, then witnessed splashdown in Muskegon Lake. During the award ceremony, the students were recognized for their participation as well as presented with several individual awards for each part of the competition, which included Fit and Finish, Artistic Design, Table Top Display, Oral Presentation, Payload, and Written Test. The Iroquois Middle School teams were very successful in this year’s Michigan Aerospace Challenge, finishing 2nd and 3rd place overall. The Union High School teams won several individual awards.

More than 100 volunteers along with local donations and grants make the program possible each year. In addition to the David House Foundation, sponsors include Mr. and Mrs. Ted Operhall of the Howmet Community Fund of the Community Foundation for Muskegon County, Michigan Aviation Hall of Fame, and the Muskegon Area Intermediate School District Regional Mathematics & Science Center.
Corporate relations mentors in Southeast Michigan

Davenport University job developers Jackie Lovejoy and Charles Smith have completed their second round of mentoring high school students in the Warren Consolidated District. This most recent mentoring took place at Butcher Community High School, an alternative high school that permits students having difficulty in traditional high school classes to continue schooling and receive their diploma instead of a GED. Career preparation, community service, and a five-year plan are the core of the program.

The last day of the program, which had run since January 2004, was celebrated with awards and a pizza luncheon. Both Lovejoy’s and Smith’s teams made their community service goals and were able to take part in the ceremony and luncheon. Mentors were given plaques and received speeches of appreciation by their students. Through these teams, Highland Park elementary schools Liberty Academy, Ford Academy, and Cortland Academy were the recipients of more than 2,500 pieces of clothing, including winter coats. The Osikita Council of the Girl Scouts of America received over 300 items of art supplies, including crayons, pens, and other writing implements, while the Macomb County Food Bank received more than 3,000 cans of food collected by the group. The emergency fund for homeless students was bolstered by more than $300 with the collection of over 3,000 returnable cans and bottles; no alcoholic containers were collected. The students’ worthwhile 11-week effort produced the results; the presentations showed them how a concentrated effort can affect so many in need.

Former president and Nobel Laureate Jimmy Carter set the tone at the Eighth Annual Habitat for Humanity of Michigan Awards Banquet, held earlier this year at the Marriott Renaissance Center Hotel in Detroit. Team leaders from Davenport University’s Dearborn and Warren campuses were among more than 1200 individuals, representing corporate sponsors, the faith community, organized labor, public officials and habitat affiliates, who attended the banquet at which Gov. Jennifer Granholm introduced and honored President Carter.

Habitat for Humanity’s goal is to eliminate poverty housing. “Affordable housing is not a luxury in Michigan, it’s a necessity,” said Carter. “Right now there are 375,000 families who spend most of their income for housing, leaving little for food, health care — what we know as necessities.”

This year, Davenport University’s southeastern campuses will share Carter’s commitment by providing Habitat for Humanity volunteers. Benton Harbor and Detroit will serve as host cities, with Habitat affiliates building 20-30 homes in each community. Additionally, the Jimmy Carter Work Project will expand beyond the United States’ borders, as Windsor, Ontario, Canada, will build several homes as a partner affiliate of the project. Overall, 220 homes are expected to be completed during the week of June 19-24, 2005, as part of the project.

Jacqueline Taylor, Ph.D., vice president for development for Davenport University, serves on the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors for Michigan Habitat for Humanity and welcomed the Davenport University staff and students from Southeast Michigan. Making it a priority to meet each of the Davenport students and staff members attending was Sen. Bill Hardiman. “The 2004 Jimmy Carter Work Build will be held in Mexico this fall,” explained Dr. Taylor. “DU students interested in participating should contact Kelly Lydon, coordinator of student life, at the Grand Rapids campus. This could be an opportunity for DU students to participate in Mexico for a week on a service-learning project.”
Student life coordinator visits Turkey via Rotary program

Kelly Lydon, student life coordinator, Grand Rapids, was one of six very fortunate people chosen by the local Rotary District #6290 to experience four unforgettable weeks in Turkey. Lydon and others were guests of the Turkish Rotarians, located on the country’s Aegean Coast, through the Rotary Group Study Exchange program.

The primary purpose of the GSE program is to develop a broader and more informed understanding of various cultures around the world. Secondarily, the 25- to 40-year-old young professionals who make up the GSE teams learn how other countries handle their professions. As a result, identifying worthy projects for cross-country collaborative efforts enriches Rotarians around the world.

Turkey is an emerging country showing great promise and energy. The people of Turkey exude a great sense of purpose in their lives. They see themselves as having emerged from the shambles of the decadent Ottoman Empire into a new and vibrant nation. During their stay, the GSE team visited nine different Turkish cities including the capital, Istanbul. The team spent three to four days in each city, living with Rotarians and getting to know their families.

While spending time with the Rotarians and their families, the group was able to immerse themselves in more than 5000 years of history. “We had a lot of fun, drank Turkish coffee and ‘raki’ (a type of strong licorice and anise liquor like the Greek ‘ouzo’), ate traditional food such as tomatoes, cheese and olives for breakfast, lots of eggplant and lamb—but no pork, of course,” explained Lydon. “We swam in their Mediterranean Sea and the Pamukkale mineral springs and took Turkish baths. We also celebrated with them in their many festivals, such as Children’s Day.”

The group brought back with them a greater sense of diversity and humanity. They left Turkey with many newly formed friendships that will only grow stronger with time.

Old Turkey: A man in traditional attire strolls past the Saat Kulesi (clock tower) in Izmir, Turkey’s third-largest province.
Davenport University was a sponsor for the West Michigan's 101 Best and Brightest Companies to Work for Awards Luncheon and Workforce Symposium, presented by the Michigan Business and Professional Association and held at the Amway Grand Plaza Hotel. The event brought hundreds of people to downtown Grand Rapids to participate in sessions on best practices and celebrate the accomplishments of the Best and Brightest honorees.

This annual event shares the latest human resources trends and developments and honors the 101 leading business organizations in West Michigan. Two breakout sessions, with presentations and panel discussions, were offered in the morning; the West Michigan’s 101 Best and Brightest Companies to Work for Awards Luncheon took place in the afternoon. Among the awards criteria are diversity and multiculturalism — a topic of one of the breakout sessions — and how they feed the openness, inclusiveness, and tolerance within those companies nominated.

Davenport University, the only higher education institution to sponsor this event, staffed a booth in a high-traffic location, with prominently displayed brochures and marketing pieces promoting the University's BBA and MBA programs. Many Davenport University associates were in attendance at the event and the human resources office played a role in event and award preparations. Edward Deeb, MBPA president, noted that Davenport University is a great partner and supporter of the MBPA, and that it makes great business sense for the University to be closely connected with business enterprises. Deeb, a member of the University’s Foundation Board of Trustees, promotes Davenport programs and name recognition. He remarked, “My office is close to your Dearborn campus and I am one of your family members.”

Jack Cichy, Ph.D., professor of management, was a featured presenter at the event. A large audience attended his presentation, “Goal-Orientated Managers: Motivating Your Team Leaders (by the use of TAO + JEN + TE).” Dave Veneklase, senior vice president for human resources and a member of 101’s Board of Trustees, spoke on the history of the Best and Brightest event during the awards luncheon and was the presenter of the Work-Life Balance Award.

Davenport University is a long-time supporter of the local business community and a strong advocate for promoting diversity, business excellence, and community development. Participation in the West Michigan’s 101 Best and Brightest Companies to Work for Awards Luncheon and Workforce Symposium is another example of the University’s commitment to community and the Davenport Way.

200+ Davenport students enrolled through displaced worker programs

Davenport University has 218 students enrolled through federal and state funds designated to retrain workers who are displaced due to their company moving to Mexico or Canada, layoffs, or company closings.

The North American Free Trade Agreement Transitional Adjustment Assistant Program, or NAFTA/TAA, is for workers who are laid off or whose work hours have been reduced as a direct result of increased imports from Mexico or Canada or because of a shift of U.S. production to those countries. The program provides affected workers with a variety of resources including tuition for two calendar years plus six months if the student needs developmental course work. Students have come to Davenport from companies such as Steelcase, Bosch, and Lifesavers.

Other displaced worker programs that provide tuition assistance are the Workforce Investment Act (WIA), another federal program, and Work First, a state program. Some Davenport students receive funding from a variety of other government programs, too numerous to itemize here.

More than one quarter of the students receiving government funds attend the Grand Rapids Career Center. Of the 60 students, 25 receive NAFTA funding. DU-Holland has 15 of its 18 displaced workers receiving NAFTA funds as well. Students appreciate the opportunity to retrain or upgrade their skills after being displaced. With NAFTA’s help, said Terrie VanOss, “I now have the opportunity to pursue a career that I can do for the rest of my life...NAFTA is a good program, more people should use it.”

Not surprisingly, three-fourths of these students are female and one-half of all the students are enrolled in health care programs.

Davenport’s reputation for providing a practical education certainly helps attract these students. As Lori Mata of Holland experienced, it was our quick response time that helped her become a Davenport student. She remembered her decision to apply to Davenport: “It was a last minute decision,” she confided. She stopped in and met with Ken Moored, financial aid coordinator, and “the next thing I knew Marla (from NAFTA) called me up to sign contracts!” she laughed.

Retention is very high with these students as they have the funding to finish a one-year diploma program or, in the case of NAFTA, an associate’s degree. Students are highly motivated to get back into the workforce and begin a new career.
DU-Holland community welcomes ambassador at Tulip Time

The year 2004 marked the 75th anniversary — the “Diamond Jubilee” — of Holland, Michigan’s annual Tulip Time Festival, a celebration of the area’s Dutch cultural heritage and tradition. There was even more cause to celebrate as Holland welcomed an honored guest to their festival, His Excellency Boudewijn J. van Eenennaam, Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to the United States.

Davenport University faculty, staff, and students from the Grand Rapids and Holland campuses were invited to attend a welcome luncheon with Ambassador van Eenennaam at the Haworth Center in Holland. In attendance were three Davenport international students from INHOLLAND University in the Netherlands. This was a momentous occasion for the Dutch students, as one noted: “It is not easy to meet the Dutch ambassador in the Netherlands.” The students’ desire to meet the ambassador was satisfied with conversation and a private photo opportunity.

Ambassador van Eenennaam delivered an inspiring, thought-provoking speech on international trade, “International Business in Current Global Economy.” The Netherlands’ partnership with the United States is one of its oldest continuous relationships, dating to the American Revolution. The relationship is based upon close historical and cultural ties, as well as a common dedication to individual freedom and human rights. The Netherlands holds similar positions to the United States on many issues and works together with the country in organizations including the United Nations, NATO, and the World Trade Organization.

The Davenport University representatives were fortunate to have the opportunity to welcome Ambassador van Eenennaam, who expressed his gratitude to the University for receiving the Dutch students and taking good care of them. Mike Zhang, director of diversity and cultural affairs, extended an invitation to the ambassador to visit Davenport University when he next visits the West Michigan area.

Nursing students and faculty in Romania

Nine Davenport University nursing students and two faculty members traveled in May to Timisoara, Romania, as partial fulfillment of transcultural courses designed to expose students to health care concerns in a developing country. The Davenport University group began their visit by touring historical sites from the Roman Empire era, along the famous Danube River separating Romania and Serbia.

The students toured several health care facilities and nursing schools. Muriel Archbold, department coordinator, nursing, taught a class on learning styles and creative thinking at two nursing schools with the assistance of two level II Davenport University nursing students. Tentative plans for the 2005 visit include direct care opportunities at various health clinics.

University senior nursing students and Toni Hayes, RN, department coordinator, nursing, presented at a symposium jointly hosted by the University and OAMR, the Romanian professional nursing association. The symposium theme was “Nursing: Making a Difference for Those in Poverty.” More than two hundred professional health care staff attended the symposium.

To celebrate the completion of five days of intense study, the OAMR group hosted a traditional dinner party for the University group. In true Romanian style, dancing was a big part of the celebration. Students and faculty appreciated the sharing and exchange of ideas between the Romanians and Americans. A Davenport University senior nursing student stated she was impressed to “see the extraordinary commitment of the Romanian nurses to improving health care in their own country.”
WAR STORY: An interview for a college history class leads to overdue recognition for vet

By Cathy Runyon

When he hit Utah Beach in Normandy, France, in June of 1944, Howard Johnston wasn’t thinking about getting a medal. It’s a good thing, because it would be 60 years before it arrived.

Johnston enlisted in the Army in 1943 at age 18. Now 79, the Jenison resident recently was challenged to recall his involvement in the war. His willingness to share his experiences resulted in a pleasant surprise.

Like many of his young friends going overseas, Johnston made arrangements for his combat pay to be mailed to his parents, who lived on the West Side of Grand Rapids.

Johnston marched into Germany that year, and by early 1945 was fighting in Germany. A blast of shrapnel sent him to the battalion hospital, then to Paris, then to England. Finally the Army decided he could not return to duty, and sent him to Ft. Carlson, Colo., to recover. He was discharged early in July, just in time to celebrate the end of the war.

“On VJ Day, I went downtown and started kissing the girls,” said Johnston. “We were all so happy.”

He was not happy about being broke. When he had returned from Europe, he learned his pay had not been sent for more than a year. The savings account he expected to find — somewhere between $900 and $1,000 on a sergeant’s pay — was not there.

“There went my car,” he said.

He also had received no medals — not the ones that chronicled his duty posts, or recognized his combat service and wound or honorable discharge.

“People gave me places to call and write,” said Johnston. “No one ever answered. Finally one wrote and said they had a big fire in St. Louis (that destroyed military records). I had no idea what was in St. Louis! I thought I probably needed to talk to someone around Washington D.C.”

Eventually Johnston, like others who came home from the war, got busy making a living and raising a family. He stopped thinking about the pay and the medals. He went to work as a printer, and married Gert, still his wife after 52 years.

He passed away, and a daughter died a few years after 50,2004, and is reprinted with the permission of Advance Newspapers.

Davenport University Prometric Testing Center opens

On June 16, 2004, Davenport University opened its new Prometric Testing Center on the Grand Rapids campus. Prometric, a division of the Thomson Corporation, is a worldwide company that has been delivering computer-based Internet technology examinations since 1990.

The new Davenport Prometric Testing Center administers IT exams for industry leaders such as CompTIA, Microsoft, Novell, Cisco, Oracle, and Intel. In the past, Grand Rapids students in the School of Technology have taken their IT certification examinations at off-site locations. Now, whether students are seeking Cisco CCNA or CCNP, Microsoft MCSA or MCSE, Novell CNE, or the newly established Information and Computer Security or Network Security certifications, they can test at Davenport University in Grand Rapids.

In addition, as a member of CompTIA and as a Microsoft Authorized Academic Testing Center, the University is able to purchase discounted exam vouchers from CompTIA and Microsoft and to pass the savings along to students, staff, corporate partners, and the general public.

The Davenport Prometric Testing Center is located in room 203 of the Sneden Academic Building. The hours of operation are:

- Wednesday 9 a.m. – 12 p.m.
- Thursday 5 p.m. – 9 p.m.
- Saturday 9 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Options for candidates wishing to buy a discounted voucher and to register for an exam may call (616) 732-1080, stop by the Learning/Testing Center in Mabel Engle Hall, or fill out a Prometric contact information form, available at the Welcome Center and in the Computer Lab.
EMS Alumni and Friends Reunion

The first EMS Alumni and Friends Reunion was held this spring in Warren Hall at Davenport University in Grand Rapids. Alumni of the EMS program traveled from across the country to reunite with old friends and past EMS faculty and staff. The night’s event began with a tour of an EMS lab and a run-through of a disaster drill. Following the tour was a reception and program honoring Mary Gillespie, RN, EMS program director, and Fran Sherman, RN, EMS clinical coordinator, for their hard work and dedication to the Davenport University EMS program.

Lansing Lugnuts Outing

On Friday, June 18, 2004, Lansing-area Davenport University alumni got together for a Lansing Lugnuts minor league baseball game. Great food and a lot of laughs were shared as former graduates reminisced about their days at DU. The event, attended by 40 people, was held in two of the suites in the Lugnuts’ home Oldsmobile Park. The gathering was a huge success, thanks to the six hard-working individuals who coordinated the entire event: alumni Mike Blackledge, Robin Cleveland, Patti Wood and Mike Zumbaugh, and Heidi Sarber, administrative assistant, alumni relations, and Tom Woods, executive director, Davenport University-Lansing.

The game was capped off with a spectacular fireworks show.
Davenport University alumni gathered at the spectacular Amway Grand Plaza Hotel in downtown Grand Rapids for the 2004 Alumni All Class Reunion. Approximately 150 alumni and friends participated in an evening of tribute and friendship, as five fellow alumni and a Davenport University staff member were honored.

Mary Boland and Bob Vanderson were awarded the Distinguished Alumni Award. Deborah Guyton, Lu Ann Roberts (Davenport University financial aid coordinator), and Brad Van Dommelen were awarded the Hy Berkowitz Professional Excellence Award. Al Wetherell, Davenport University executive vice president of operations, was awarded the Tyrus R. Wessell Exemplary Service Award.

The evening concluded with a presentation of gift candles to past Distinguished Alumni Award winners in attendance: Wallace J. “Wally” Bronner, Peter C. Cook, Betty LaCroix, Sherry DeLisle, Carl Eschels, Edward Gray, John Myaard, and Donald Strock.

Back: Beverly S. Wall ’77, chair, Davenport University Alumni Association Board of Directors; Davenport University President Randolph K. Flechsig; Al Wetherell; P. Robert Vanderson ’56; Barbara Mieras, Ph.D., executive vice president for advancement and president of the foundation; Darryl Shelton, executive director of alumni relations. Front Row: Mary M. Boland ’79; Deborah J. Guyton ’86, ’89; Lu Ann Roberts, ’86, ’03. (Not pictured: Brad Van Dommelen ’99.)

**West Michigan Alumni Golf Outing**

Davenport University’s West Michigan Alumni Chapter planned and sponsored the 22nd Annual West Michigan Alumni Golf Outing at Quail Ridge Golf Course on June 28, 2004. Quail Ridge Golf Course is located in Ada, Michigan, and is the home course for the Davenport University Panthers golf team.

Sixty-four golfers attended this fun and memorable event that brought alumni friends together. After playing 18 holes, the golfers gathered in the club house for dinner and the awards ceremony. Chapter President Mark Vruggink presented the prizes for the 1st place winners for the Senior, Mixed, Open and Women divisions. He concluded the program with prizes for Longest Drive and Closest to the Pin for both Men and Women.

Special thanks go to Dan Strock, Davenport University Panthers golf coach, and Mark Vruggink and all of the West Michigan Alumni Chapter board members for planning another successful event.
Marriages

Betsey S. Steenholdt, ‘86 accounting and business management, was married to Daniel W. Brandt on October 18, 2003, at Fourth Reformed Church. The couple currently resides in Ann Arbor, Michigan.

Amy Kozlowski, ‘88 business studies, was married to Dale E. Richardson on October 4, 2003, at Snow United Methodist Church. The couple currently resides in Ann Arbor, Michigan.

Misty Michelle Brown, ‘01 marketing, was married to Jason John Van Heulen on June 21, 2004, at the Chapman Memorial – Nazarene Church in Vicksburg. The couple currently resides in Fort Collins, Colorado.

Jody Lea Russell, ‘03 accountancy, was married to Daniel Anthony Ter Haar on January 15, 2004, in St. Lucia, the West Indies. The couple currently resides in Holland, Michigan.

Career Updates

Donald Campbell, ‘43 business administration, is the author of a recently published book, “The Party at Twin Oaks Ranch.” Campbell was a newspaper publisher for forty years and is now retired.

Terri Graham, ‘76 business management, has been promoted to human resource development/training supervisor with Educational Community Credit Union. Graham has more than twenty years experience in credit union management.

Mary Navarro, ‘90 general business, has been appointed vice president and bank manager for National City’s Community Bank. Navarro has more than twenty-four years of banking experience.

Tom Zoulek, ‘90 accounting, has been named to the position of controller for RTS and Warner Transport. This is Zoulek’s second promotion since joining the company in August of 2000. Zoulek spent the first thirteen years of his career as the accounting manager for his family-owned business located in Byron Center, Michigan.

Albert Le Blanc, ‘96 business management, has been named training and education coordinator for McNaughton & Gunn. Le Blanc is a member of the American Society for Quality and the American Society for Training and Development and has worked in the service industry for several years.

Becky Talaski, ‘97 automated accounting application, has been promoted to chief financial officer of Northstar Financial Group, Inc. Talaski will be involved with all accounting issues for Northstar Bank, its holding company, and all other affiliates.

Jean Slimmen, ‘99 business studies, was promoted to assistant vice president and human resource officer of West Shore Bank. Slimmen has been with the company since 1998.

Dana Lovelady, ‘01 marketing, has recently accepted a position with the Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce as the program coordinator for business development.

Recently married?
New baby in the family?
Promotion at work?

Please keep your alumni records updated and share news with your fellow alumni.

Send this form to:
Alumni News
Davenport University
415 East Fulton
Grand Rapids, MI 49503
or e-mail: alumni@davenport.edu
MERRILLVILLE, Ind. − Kingley Vibert presents a new novel that adds an urban, hip-hop twist to today’s selection of modern fiction. In *Roses Bloom When Brainstorm* (now available through AuthorHouse), an Indiana woman moves to New York, meets an eclectic Rastafarian man, and the two develop a unique and loving relationship.

Roses and her friend, Cheetah, move to New York to attend the Drama School of Art with the dream that they will be discovered. After getting into a huge fight with her friend, Roses meets Dios, a writer who sells his work on the street. He invites Roses into his world of thoughts and ideas and opens his mind to her, too.

On a long, evening walk through the streets of New York, Roses and Dios exchange thoughts and feelings about life, love and experiences. They open their hearts to each other and share their most personal ideas. Soon after, their relationship blossoms into a strong romance that breaks all stereotypes and barriers.

Their deep connection intensifies when Roses plays a game called Brainstorm. It is a game of opinions and feelings that Dios created. The revelations Roses experiences while playing this game takes her one step closer to realizing her full intellectual potential.

*Roses Bloom When Brainstorm* is a unique work of fiction with an urban twist that creatively addresses the importance of opening one’s mind to a variety of people and ideas.

Vibert grew up in Montreal and moved to northwest Indiana in the 1990s. He attended Davenport and Purdue universities, and he has been the student president of Alpha Beta Gamma International Business Society, a student ambassador and alumni delegate. He has published one other book, *Quand les couleurs seront transparentes*, written in French.

The preceding press release is courtesy of AuthorHouse. AuthorHouse is the world leader in publishing and print-on-demand services. Founded in 1997, AuthorHouse has helped more than 18,500 people worldwide become published authors. For more information, visit www.authorhouse.com. Kingley Vibert is a 2003 graduate of Davenport University, degree in marketing.

We will set sail aboard Princess Cruises’ exciting ship, the Sapphire Princess, with wonderful stops in Australia and New Zealand including: Sydney, Melbourne, Hobart, Fjordland National Park, Dunedin, Christchurch, Wellington and Auckland. A great way to see both countries without constant packing — one cabin for the whole tour!

The 12-day cruise will be onboard Princess’ largest vessel yet. The Sapphire Princess has a nine-hole putting course, an Asian-themed Lotus spa, original Broadway- and Las Vegas-style productions, and much more. In addition, there are enticing choices at every location for the optional shore excursions. Possibly a visit to Christchurch (the garden city), or a farm visit to see sheep shearing, and maybe an outing with lunch and a winery tour. Or, for the more adventuresome, an underwater experience. The temperature range in January is 62 to 73 degrees.

**Rate:** Cost per person is between $3,600 – $5,100, based on the type of cabin that you select, with a deposit per person of $1,200.

**What’s Included:**

- Inside or outside cabin
- All taxes and port charges
- Shipboard accommodations
- Transfers
- Some meals and beverages
- Coach class air from Grand Rapids and Detroit
- On-board entertainment
- Insurance

Space is limited. So let us know if you would like more information or to make a reservation. There are various categories and prices available, with limited space. This is a very popular cruise, so an early deposit will have the best choice.

For information and reservation please contact:

**Bunny Braughton**  
Breton Village Travel  
(317) 849-0130  
bbraughton@aol.com

*Business class air may also be requested as an upgrade if available and at an additional cost.*
The W.A. Lettinga Campus

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