Dear Friends of Davenport University,

The month of May is an exciting time for Davenport University. It is our favorite time of the year because we celebrate our students’ accomplishments at commencement. We are very proud of our graduates. They put a lot of work into their education. They have sacrificed and persevered in the face of many challenges. Their degree is truly a mark of distinction, and graduation is a milestone in their life’s journey. A college education is a measure of achievement that proves each graduate has what it takes to be successful. Each graduate had a dream—and each graduate had the drive to make that dream a reality!

Our graduates should be interested in employers’ response to a very important question: What university did you attend? I tell our graduates that a Davenport degree tells the work world that they know how to be successful and are prepared for a career, because we work very hard to make sure that when potential employers see a Davenport graduate, they see an energetic, prepared worker who should be at the top of their list.

Commencement is an exciting celebration for all. Our graduates beam with a sense of accomplishment, families applaud and cheer the graduates’ achievements, and faculty and staff brim with a sense of pride as they watch the fruits of their labor walk across the stage to receive a well earned degree. What a wonderful event, and what a privilege to be a part of it each year.

This year, 1660 Davenport University students participated in commencement exercises. Davenport graduated 2817 students in total, which is approximately one-fifth of our student population.

We are very proud of our graduates!

Sincerely,

Randolph K. Flechsig
President
Throughout Michigan and Northern Indiana, Davenport University students and their family and friends celebrated a great beginning: commencement. In May, more than 2800 Davenport University students graduated, ending a phase of their education while embarking on a new path. For some, the commencement ceremony is one beautiful moment in time; for others, moments within and surrounding commencement are memorable. Joyce Kader-Rivero, medical billing administration, attended the Ford Field commencement. Kader-Rivero has great difficulty walking, due to cerebral palsy, but was determined to walk at her commencement and cross the stage to receive her degree from Davenport University president Randolph Flechsig. Conrad Zemens, CIS faculty, offered his assistance to Kader-Rivero. With her arm entwined around his, she told Zemens that she had never attended her prom; later, she sent a note to Zemens:

Professor Zemens, I want to thank you so much for your help at the graduation ceremony. If you could pass along my “thank you” to everyone else that helped me that day, I’d really appreciate it. It seems as if I’ve forgotten everyone’s name except yours (because you were so funny). Thank you for being my prom date.

Detroit ABC affiliate WXYZ was present at the Ford Field commencement to cover another memorable moment, when a graduate saw his father for the first time in 25 years. The graduate sent an invitation to his father, asking him to attend commencement. The father attended commencement, shared in the celebration, and was reunited with his son.

Congratulations to Davenport University’s 2005 graduates. We celebrate your accomplishments and wish you well as you Make a Living, Make a Life, Make a Contribution.
**Student speakers share their wisdom**

“We are here this evening celebrating an event that I’m sure we thought at times would never come. Whether it is a diploma, associate’s degree, bachelor’s degree or a master’s degree received here this evening, we have accomplished a major goal. We must remember that our goal setting can not end here. Attending a university gives us knowledge but is not designed to give us total knowledge. It is designed to equip us with the tools we need to be able to go out and make career choices. This is why we are here tonight and why we celebrate.”

— Deborah L. Baker, Davenport University-South Bend/Mishawaka, computer networking

“Davenport University believes that students who graduate should be able to demonstrate certain professional and academic abilities... Skills such as leadership, problem solving, teamwork, and interpersonal, oral and written communications were practiced throughout all of my classes.”

— Verna M. Curtis, Davenport University-Lansing, business studies

“Davenport has strengthened or reinvented our characters. We are encouraged to think independently. We have discovered that through communication our voice can make a difference and, more importantly, make an impact in whatever we strive to do. We are challenged to become resourceful and adaptable to change. We are submerged into an environment that embraces diversity and we have had a real world glimpse into the fellowship of humanity despite physical, cultural, economical and social differences. This institution has established a learning environment that builds and cultivates leaders.”

— Deborah Lynne Freeman, Davenport University-Dearborn, CIS Web management

“If you are a (Davenport University) graduate today or you are a faculty or staff member, you know about the DUES system. For those of you that are guests today, here is a quick overview. D is for Dynamic Leadership, U is for Universal Communication, the E is for Excellence and the S is for System. Davenport University focuses on making sure that each student pays his or her DUES by possessing this skill set and more.”

— Zia J. Knapp, Davenport University-Midland, CIS

“As I look around this evening, I see many people here who have put in many hours of studying, working, and living lives outside of school. A lot of effort has been put in by everyone. This class is made up of students from all different ages and ethnic backgrounds; we are a diverse class that now has the skills and credentials to succeed in the 21st century. To those who have supported this class, on behalf of our class, I thank you.”

— Brian A. Lane, Davenport University-Kalamazoo, business management
Honorary Doctor of Laws degree

Davenport University has a history of recognizing successful business leaders who have demonstrated accomplishments that support the University’s mission and vision. The Governing Board of Trustees distinguishes Sharon Buursma, former executive vice president of ambulatory and continuing care for Spectrum Health, Davenport University Foundation Board of Trustees member, and John Spoelhof, retired president of Prince Corporation, chairman of Bayside Capital, and Davenport University Governing Board of Trustees member, for their accomplishments and is proud to confer upon each the Davenport University Honorary Doctor of Laws degree.

Sharon Buursma and John Spoelhof truly exemplify the Davenport University motto: Make a living, Make a life, Make a contribution.

Nurses pinning ceremony

Unity Hall was filled to overflowing with friends and family members of the 54 Davenport University Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) graduates, 23 Registered Nurse (RN) graduates, and seven Bachelor of Science Nursing (BSN) graduates who participated in the Nursing Pinning Ceremony in Midland on Wednesday, May 11, 2005. Class speakers from each level shared their experiences and thanked their families and the University for being supportive as the students pursued their Davenport education.

Graduates received their nursing pins from the nursing department coordinator, were given a Florence Nightingale lamp, and were welcomed into the nursing profession with the reading of the Health Professions Covenant; some of the program’s top students received honors for their academic and clinical performance. A special farewell presentation was made to Barbara Carter, PhD, on the occasion of her retirement, to thank her for developing the nursing program and for her many years of dedication to the program, faculty and students.
While most graduates have been on a Davenport University campus at least once, commencement week marked the first campus visit for eight online graduating students who traveled to Davenport University in Grand Rapids to take part in their commencement ceremony. Due to restrictions in China, 14 students participating in a degree program involving Ningbo University (China), Humber College (Canada) and Davenport University were unable to obtain the necessary visa to study in the states. Affected students remained at Humber in Toronto for an additional year and took their final courses toward a degree in international business through Davenport University Online.

Six of these students, accompanied by Humber College representative Julie Valevicius, made a special trip to participate in this memorable event, celebrate their milestone educational achievement and career development, and set foot on a Davenport campus. The students enjoyed their visits to Davenport’s downtown campus and the state-of-the-art W.A. Lettinga campus. They were able to meet and greet faculty, staff and fellow international students during the International Student Reception at the downtown campus, and went shopping for the gifts and souvenirs they took home in late May. An independent student from China flew in to receive his bachelor’s degree in accounting; a student from Italy, who found DU Online through the Internet, traveled from home to accept his associate’s degree in management.

That these students made the effort to attend commencement and become better acquainted with Davenport University is a strong testament to Davenport’s programs and DU Online’s ability to make these students feel connected to the University. Congratulations to these international students and all 2005 Davenport University graduates on their academic accomplishments.

Management professor appointed to ICPM board of regents

Dr. Robert D. Reid, executive director, and Lynn S. Powell, director of administration, of the Institute of Certified Professional Managers announced that Jack D. Cichy, PhD, management professor, Grand Rapids, was nominated for and appointed to a three-year term on the ICPM board of regents.

Headquartered in Harrisonburg, Virginia, on the James Madison University campus, the ICPM is the world’s largest certifying organization for the management profession. More than 10,000 managers have been certified through ICPM, which was founded in 1974 by the National Management Association and the International Management Council. The nonprofit ICPM is dedicated to raising competency and professionalism in the management field. Through certification programs, the institute sets performance standards for managers in organizations and companies worldwide. The ICPM conducts research in management, management education, testing and certification, and is governed by a Board of Regents composed of executives, practitioners and academicians.

“I am delighted to serve Davenport University as a member of the ICPM’s board of regents,” said Professor Cichy, who is also a Corporate Services trainer. “My involvement with ICPM will be a win-win relationship: I will serve on the board and learn from my peers who work in a variety of industries, and will investigate ways to integrate the Certified Manager credential into the curriculum at Davenport and at business and industry sites in Michigan.”
Certified Manager Program opens doors of opportunity for nontraditional students

Michael Cox, 46, a student from Fennville, Michigan, completed a dual specialty in management with a manufacturing and human resources focus, and graduated with his Bachelor of Business Administration degree in May 2005 from Davenport University. Cox, who decided he needed an edge over other graduates, pursued the Certified Manager designation after talking to Jack D. Cichy, PhD, CM, professor of management, and determining that earning the credential was an important career move. “There are a lot of college graduates knocking on doors for jobs,” said Cox, who earned the CM credential in October 2004. “All things equal experience and education wise, the CM credential gives me the edge over other job seekers.”

The Institute of Certified Professional Managers confers the Certified Manager designation upon those individuals who meet education and experience requirements and pass three examinations documenting professional skills in a wide variety of management areas. Davenport University is the first preferred provider of Certified Manager training and education in Michigan. “Davenport University is in elite company with Ohio State University and Pennsylvania State University to qualify as a preferred provider,” said Dr. Cichy. “In this day and age, it is important for managers to be prepared to meet new workplace challenges involving change, ethics, social responsibility, delegating, communication, time management and the legal environment.” Cichy explained. “In our experience, the ICPM’s Certified Manager Program does a superb job of taking these concepts and making them relevant and pragmatic. The program offers students the opportunity to prepare for the CM examinations while learning techniques to handle relevant day-to-day management issues.”

“Certification is becoming a very important credential that can serve as the single most important point of differentiation between job candidates when it comes to career advancement opportunities,” said Thomas Brown, PhD, Davenport University executive vice president for academics and provost. Employers may benefit when employees with CM certification set quality management standards and demonstrate commitment to the workplace by keeping their management skills updated. For individuals, CM certification increases management knowledge and strategies, and conveys professional achievement. Cascade Engineering in Grand Rapids, the first company to offer CM training through Davenport University, began offering the training to its managers in November. “There has been some enthusiastic interest in the Certified Manager program here at Cascade Engineering,” said Dave Barrett, senior human resources manager and organizational consultant in learning and development at the company. “CE senior management views the CM as a valuable credential in terms of career ladder advancement.” Michael Cox is particularly proud to include his CM designation on his résumé and will be delighted when future potential employers ask him about this credential. “The fact that I have to keep my CM skills current the rest of my professional life through yearly recertification (via 10 documented hours of personal development) also indicates to a prospective employer that I am committed to my own continuous improvement,” said Cox. Davenport University is considering offering CM preparation classes to those interested in earning the ICPM’s Certified Manager designation. Please contact Dr. Jack D. Cichy at jcichy@davenport.edu with any inquiries.

Visit http://cob.jmu.edu/icpm for more information on the Institute of Certified Professional Managers.

In Memoriam: Lillian Myners

Lillian Myners, a Davenport University instructor for 35 years, passed away on January 22, 2005, at 98. A native of Michigan’s Upper Peninsula, she received her higher education at Eastern Normal School (now Eastern Michigan University). Her early teaching experiences were at Parsons Business School, in Kalamazoo, which she left to come to then Davenport-MacLachlan Institute. During her time with Davenport, she taught most every secretarial course. In an experience she considered one of her most rewarding, Myners tutored severely handicapped students through the Vocational Rehab program.

Myners was among the Davenport faculty transferred to the newly formed University of Grand Rapids after a group of local business leaders, including M.E. Davenport, spearheaded a campaign to start a four-year accredited college in Grand Rapids. The University was forced into sale when World War II quickly depleted the predominantly male student body and staff. The school moved back to downtown Grand Rapids and again worked toward the goal of becoming a college and building for the future. Myners saw many changes over the years, among them the school’s acquisition of a tape deck that handled four dictation tapes at once—a great technological advancement at the time.

In 1965, a women’s residence hall was named in honor of Lillian Myners’ distinguished career and service. The staff of the (Davenport yearbook) Retrospectus dedicated the book to Myners in 1971, the year she retired. Myners will always be remembered fondly for her service and commitment to what is now Davenport University.
Best practice is GREAT

Davenport University received the Association for Human Resource Management’s HR Best Practice Award – Large Organization for the GREAT customer service training program, implemented in 2004. The HR Best Practice Award is given to an organization that displays outstanding human resources practices and recognizes those small, medium and large organizations that align successful HR programs and practices with the organization’s business goals and objectives. Other large organizations in contention for the award were Alticor and the Amway Grand Plaza. The award was presented to the human resources office on March 9, 2005, in a ceremony at the Frederik Meijer Gardens in Grand Rapids. Lynda Cribari, director of training and development, was instrumental in developing the high-quality GREAT program.

The awards presentation was covered by the Grand Rapids Press, and Davenport University was featured and profiled on the front page of the Press’ JOBS section the following Sunday. Included in the profile were quotes from Davenport University associates:

“DU is committed to providing our students a high-quality education experience,” says Dave Veneklase, senior vice president for human resources. “This award recognizes our commitment.”

Lynda Cribari, director of training and development, notes that teamwork guides the program’s success. “Davenport employees from all levels helped develop service expectations, key training areas, and the creative element that instills excitement in GREAT.”

“GREAT training is impressive, practical, and provides realistic service expectation guidelines,” says Jolene Ayres, human resources manager. “It reinforces Davenport’s high customer service standards.” Results are measured, employees receive feedback, and GREAT performers are recognized by supervisors and in a university newsletter.

The one-day GREAT customer service training program, attended by Davenport University employees, supports the University’s goals, mission/vision and strategic plan, and creates high standards for a respectful, cooperative work environment. GREAT success stories and employees who have received the “excellent” rating are featured in various university publications. Davenport customers are able to offer feedback on their service experiences using comment cards or an online form, accessible through the Davenport University Web site.

Articulation agreements increase

MBPA

Michigan Business and Professional Association and Davenport University signed an articulation agreement on February 4, 2005. MBPA, an organization of mainly small- to medium-sized businesses, represents over 20,000 members who employ more than 160,000 persons throughout Michigan. The articulation awards Davenport University credit to MBPA members who complete courses through MBPA’s Management Impact Institute. These courses include Best Practices of Human Resources, Financial Planning, Marketing and Sales, Customer Encounters and Relationships, and Business Ethics and Decision Making. Upon completion of the Management Impact Institute courses, MBPA members earn 3 General Elective Business Credits.

KISD: Student

Through KISD, Davenport University continues to develop course-to-course and program-to-program articulation agreements with Kent Career and Technical Center. The goal and purpose of these agreements is to assist participating students in gaining a seamless transition to DU. Students in business, technology and health career programs at KCTC will have the opportunity to have their courses and programs transitioned to the University to be a step ahead in their higher education pursuits. Their classes will be equated to the program outcomes of the University’s curriculum. A college transcript will be generated for the students while still in high school, giving them a competitive edge in their careers and in attaining their higher educational goals.

Foremost Insurance

Foremost Insurance Group and Davenport University signed an articulation agreement on December 15, 2004. The agreement grants DU college credit toward business management, business administration, business law, and/or risk management on successful completion of Insurance Institute of America/Chartered Property Casual Underwriter achievements such as state licensing and/or course completion in property-casualty insurance, commercial, or personal risk management with an insurance concentration. Foremost employees will receive college credit, immediately and retroactively, toward a baccalaureate or master’s degree program upon passing IIA/CPCU exams.
About a year ago, a group of faculty, academic deans, executive directors, student service specialists, librarians, learning center directors and information technology specialists formed a committee, co-chaired by Chris Bill, director of compensation and benefits, and Camille Colatosti, PhD, dean of the University School, to evaluate Davenport University’s existing academic support structures—the libraries, learning centers and computer labs.

The committee discovered that students benefit from the academic support provided by libraries and learning centers. Not only do Foundations of Learning students benefit from help in writing and math, but all students benefit from support, especially when they receive tutoring in challenging subjects like statistics and accounting. The committee also discovered, through surveys, that while there are some terrific libraries and learning centers at Davenport and some wonderful librarians, tutors and teachers, many campuses are really struggling to provide the kinds of support that students need.

The more the committee talked to the campuses, the more sense it made to think about ways to combine and share the existing resources and facilities in order to provide students with the best possible service. Thus, the concept of the Information Commons was born.

Information Commons

The Information Commons concept emphasizes unifying and sharing the library, computer center and learning center resources to create the best possible Davenport University Library System. The Information Commons is a common place for sharing information and learning. The Information Commons makes information and knowledge the central points of Davenport University and each campus.

This kind of sharing is already taking place on many campuses. The Information Commons is conceived as a place where all students, staff and faculty will feel comfortable receiving support. The Commons would include a computer center; general academic support, including support for Foundations of Learning and English as a Second Language students, tutoring in a variety of subjects and a writing center; professional development for faculty and staff; testing services; support for students and faculty in Writing and Communication Across the Curriculum and in Quantitative Analysis Across the Curriculum; online or virtual writing center and tutoring services; and library services.

A model for all

The Information Commons concept will work on small, medium and large campuses. Hours of operation, levels of staffing, and depth of services may vary based on campus size, but all components may be embraced by campuses of all sizes. Implementation of this model will, in many cases, require fewer changes than imagined; many of these academic support functions occur on campuses in informal ways as faculty, librarians, computer center staff and learning center staff work with students.

New W.A. Lettinga Campus in Grand Rapids

The W.A. Lettinga Campus, being built in Grand Rapids, is designed with the Information Commons in mind. In fact, the Information Commons—with its library, computer center, learning center and testing center resources—will be a focal point of the new campus and is designed to be the place where students find the academic support they need.

Davenport University’s W.A. Lettinga Campus

The W.A. Lettinga Campus will open its doors to students in August 2005. Please visit http://www.davenport.edu/du/about/pressroom/newsandevents/lettinga/default.htm for more information on Davenport University’s new main campus.
Paralegal students present projects

Introduction to Paralegal Studies students shared their class projects at a meeting of the Grand Rapids Bar Legal Assistants Section, held at the offices of Miller, Johnson, Snell & Cummiskey. Davenport University students Kathleen Stahl and Lisa Greenwood gave their presentation ‘Increased Efficiency for the Law Firm by Use of Legal Assistants’ at a fall meeting of the Legal Assistants Section. Davenport paralegal graduate Jan Irwin, chair of the section, commented, “The statistics [presented by Kathleen and Lisa] were especially impressive and showed how paralegals can have a significant impact on the amount of work that can be accomplished, resulting in financial benefits to the law firm, the attorney, and their clients.”

Ruth Stevens, JD, director of the Paralegal Studies Program at Davenport University in Grand Rapids, acted as moderator for the meeting. “This was a terrific opportunity for our students to practice their skills in a real-world setting,” said Stevens. “Kathleen and Lisa did an excellent job preparing their presentation and it was very well received by the audience.” Stacy Westra, a Davenport alumna and paralegal at the Kent County Circuit Court, acted as a mentor for the students as they worked on their presentation. Westra also attended the meeting to see the final results.

DU New Program Development

The Davenport University New Program Development Team was created to drive the process of remaining relevant by creating new academic programs. In the past year, the team has received input from DU faculty, staff and students. A wide variety of program ideas were submitted—running the gamut from fashion design to social work. In the end, several majors were researched and approved for launch in fall 2005: These programs represent an exciting advancement for Davenport University and a wonderful opportunity for DU students. They are designed to meet the current and future needs of students and the business community. Including the four programs introduced in the last year, the University will have welcomed 12 new programs in 12 months.

Applied Technology – diploma

An opportunity for students to transfer in credits from technology courses not already offered at Davenport University. Students can continue their applied knowledge and skills in an applied learning environment with the University to earn associate’s, bachelor’s and graduate degrees.

Business Administration – ABA

Affords students the opportunity for a more general business administration degree and allows them to combine major courses from the Accounting, Finance, Management and Marketing disciplines.

Computer Information System – AAS

Designed to introduce students to programming in microcomputer and minicomputer environments, this program provides hands-on training and instruction in the latest computer operations technologies.

Computer Information Systems – BAS

Davenport University now offers this degree with specialties in Database Management, Global Information Technology, Programming and Web Design.

Human Resource Management – BBA

Covers the latest HR specialties, which include Change Management, International Management, Training and Strategic Human Resources.

Internal Auditing Specialty of Accounting Information Management – BBA

With the need for improved corporate governance and the resulting legal factors, an internal auditor’s specialized knowledge is now more critical than ever.

Phlebotomy – diploma

Prepares students to function as phlebotomists with responsibilities including, but not limited to, venipuncture and blood draw micro-collection techniques.

Service Management and Marketing – BBA

Davenport is the first university in Michigan to offer this degree, particularly relevant to businesses that rely on professionals who market products and services and who build customer loyalty through excellent service.
Faculty, staff members honored by MCC

Of 24 colleges and universities represented at the Michigan Campus Compact Faculty/Staff Community Service-Learning Awards, presented at the Institute on Service-Learning at Adrian College, Davenport University had the most recipients, with five; Michigan State University followed, with three recipients. Nominated by Davenport University President Randy Flechsig and cited for their varied and individual contributions to Service Learning were Camille Colatosti, PhD, dean of the University School; Katie Kuznicki, customer service/facility manager, South Bend; Jacquelyn Murray, student life coordinator, Warren; Ruth Stevens, JD, associate professor of paralegal studies, Grand Rapids; and Therese Tomaszek, PhD, associate professor, humanities, English, interdisciplinary studies, Grand Rapids.

- Dr. Camille Colatosti established the University Service-Learning Committee to support and broaden curricular and community service throughout Davenport University. Dr. Colatosti has also been active in community service in Southeast Michigan.
- Katie Kuznicki is the campus coordinator for the United Way drive and for campus-community events including support for the March of Dimes, St. Jude’s Children’s Hospital and Cans for Kids.
- Jacquelyn Murray was instrumental in bringing the IRS-VITA program to Davenport University-Warren and is working to establish a Community Service and Service-Learning Center at the campus.
- Ruth Stevens led the establishment of a special partnership between Congress Elementary School and Davenport University in Grand Rapids. The partnership has grown to 17 Grand Rapids campus volunteers serving as mentors to students in the school.
- Dr. Therese Tomaszek designed the Arts and Culture class to incorporate service-learning. Dr. Tomaszek mentors students at Congress Elementary School and continues to mentor students whom she taught as a Fulbright Scholar in China.

Also from Davenport University at the Institute on Service-Learning were Irene Bembenista, accounting/finance division chair, Merrillville, who presented the conference session “Stepping Stones to Service-Learning,” and Kelly Hernandez, student life coordinator, Grand Rapids, who presented a poster session featuring campus-community activities and fund-raisers and focusing on the University’s work with Habitat for Humanity. Attending the two-day conference, now in its ninth year, were 16 Davenport University employees and their guests. Other conference participants included Davenport administrators and faculty members Mary Campbell, English department coordinator, Warren; Marlene Hess, PhD, associate professor of English, Grand Rapids; Grace Jones, director of student life, Warren; Larry Maes, marketing coordinator, Warren; Regina Pierce, social sciences department coordinator, Dearborn; Loretta Sharma, MD, division chair, science; Jacqueline Taylor, PhD, vice president for development; and Kenneth Williams, department coordinator, finance, Dearborn.

**Michigan Campus Compact (MCC) promotes the education and commitment of Michigan college students to be engaged citizens, through creating and expanding academic, co-curricular and campuswide opportunities for community service, service-learning and civic engagement.**

**Each year, the Michigan Campus Compact celebrates the work of faculty and staff members from member institutions across the state. This special recognition of contributions to campus and the community highlights the very best in higher education.**

— From the Michigan Campus Compact and the Michigan Community Service Commission, 2005 Awards Ceremony booklet

**Alternative Spring Break 2005**

During Spring Break, seven Davenport University students, one staff volunteer and one staff leader headed to Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, on a Habitat for Humanity Collegiate Challenge trip to build Habitat homes. The 18-hour drive to their Alternative Spring Break was well worth it when the group met Rose, the future homeowner. Rose, a manager at the local Subway, will share her home with her 4-year-old son and elderly grandfather whom she cares for. With the additional help of high school students from upstate New York, the Davenport troop managed to roof and finish framing a house for Rose and her family. The weather was a warm 60 degrees—just right for accomplishing the Davenport team’s mission of serving the Horry County, South Carolina, community.

“Giving a hand-up and not a hand-out” is the Horry County Habitat for Humanity motto, and homeowner involvement is part of the Habitat building process. Rose, who worked alongside the spring breakers to make her dream home come true, was slated to move into her home in early June.
BPA National Leadership Conference

DU team impressive, one student strikes it rich

The Business Professionals of America organization is dedicated to preparing a world-class workforce by advancing students’ leadership, citizenship, academic and technical skills. At the BPA State Leadership Conference in March, more than 30 students from Davenport University in Grand Rapids took part in competition against schools including Michigan Technological University, Northern Michigan University and the University of Michigan; more than 20 of these Davenport students went on to compete at the BPA National Leadership Conference “Strike it Rich!” in Anaheim, California, April 22-25, during which they garnered six first-place awards, three second-place awards, and sixteen additional placements within the Top 5 and Top 8.

“In 25 years of Davenport participation at BPA Nationals, only a total of seven people had won first-place finishes before this year!” commented Ron Drayer, associate professor, CIS, and faculty co-advisor with Deb Kiss, professor of accounting. Almost 1000 students qualified for BPA’s Post-Secondary Division National Leadership Conference, further elevating the Davenport University wins. This was the first trip to the National Leadership Conference for first-place winner and first-time BPA member Justin Buiter and for first- and second-place award winner Stanley Jarosz, who also received two Top 8 placements. Representing Davenport’s international enrollment were students Upjinder Chawla, India, and Barb Gering, Germany. Proving the expression “The third time is the charm,” Kelvin Frizzell and Bill Rozema, in their third year at NLC competition, took first-place honors in Network Design Team.

Frizzell also claimed a less typical win: During time away from the competition, several Davenport representatives—sporting bright green T-shirts with red lettering proclaiming “DAVENDON UNIVERSITY LOVES BOB” on the front and “www.davenport.edu” on the back—went to a taping of the nationally televised game show “The Price is Right.” Frizzell walked away from the show with close to $6,000 in cash and prizes and donated one prize, a large gumball machine, to the student center at the new W.A. Lettinga Campus. The gumball machine, which will be used as an ongoing fund-raiser for BPA, will have a plaque with the names of the 2005 competitors affixed to its base.

BPA National Leadership Conference student and student team winners

1st place: Justin Buiter, Fundamentals of HTML; Kelvin Frizzell, Cisco Systems Administration, Microsoft Network Administration, Network Design Team; Barb Gering, Advanced Accounting; Stanley Jarosz, Management/Marketing/HR Concepts; Bill Rozema, Network Design Team. 2nd place: Don Cross, Novell Network Administration; Barb Gering, Payroll Accounting; Stanley Jarosz, Parliamentary Procedures Concepts. Top 5: Upjinder Chawla, Economic Research Project; Terisa Bennett, Heather Fisher, Barb Gering and Deborah Wingert, Financial Analyst Team; Salomon Lopez, Brett Sommers, Matt Wiersum and Jeremy Williams, Network Design Team; Nicole Bird, Michelle Merriman, Amy Peterson and Rochella Robinson, Administrative Support Team. Top 8: Brad Bultman, Entrepreneurship; Li Fisher, Novell Network Administrator; Stanley Jarosz, SQL Server Administration, Visual Basic Programming; Salomon Lopez, Computer Network Technology, Information Technology Concepts; Amy Peterson, Advanced Word Processing, Integrated Office Applications; Bill Rozema, Cisco Systems Administration; Matt Wiersum, Microsoft Network Administration; Deborah Wingert, Advanced Accounting, Banking and Finance.

Hockey season wrap-up: Panthers at ACHA Nationals

The Davenport University hockey team ended regular season play ranked third in the American Collegiate Hockey Association’s Central Division, and finished in third place in the Great Midwest Hockey League conference. The Panthers played in the ACHA National Tournament at Oakland University in Rochester, Michigan, March 2-5, 2005.

The Panthers were hurt by a 3-5 loss to Liberty University and a 2-3 loss to Colorado State. In game 3, the Panthers came back to win their final game of the season, defeating Wagner University 5-2. Davenport University’s 1-2 finish in ACHA tournament pool play failed to advance the team to the Final Four this year. Overall, the Panther hockey team had a 27-8-1 season; they finished 7-4-1 in GMHL conference play.
Dearborn DEX awarded at international level

Davenport University-Dearborn Delta Epsilon Chi chapter members Davida Davenport, Jeremy Davis, Aaron Schwartz, Jash Simoneau and Sean Warren, all first-place winners at the State Career Development Conference in February, traveled with faculty advisor Michael Kolacz, marketing department chair, to sunny California and the 44th Annual International Career Development Conference, May 4-7, 2005. The ICDC was hosted by the Disneyland Hotel and Resort in Anaheim, California.

Eight Michigan chapters, including Dearborn’s sister chapter in Grand Rapids, were represented by 84 members. The conference, representing 25 states and Canada and Puerto Rico, boasted more than 1700 members in attendance. Michigan’s Davenport University-Dearborn and Kettering University (Flint) were honored with the Diamond Chapter Award, given to chapters demonstrating civic responsibility and service to the communities in which they live. Dearborn members volunteered at Gleaner’s Food Bank on Martin Luther King Jr. Day, took in over $10,000 in pledges for Detroit Public Television, volunteered on Thanksgiving and Christmas at a soup kitchen, and delivered flowers to elderly shut-ins for Christmas.

On the Grand Awards Stage, the Dearborn chapter received two first-place honors. The team of Aaron Schwartz, Jash Simoneau and Sean Warren were awarded for their innovative advertising campaign for Cedar Point family member Geauga Lake, in Ohio. The Advertising Campaign event required them to put together an entire advertising plan for a company, including billboards, billboard locations, promotional items and implementation plans. Jeremy Davis participated in the National Management Institute where he was randomly placed on a four-person team of students from various chapters and states. Teams were given a case study and asked to present a campaign proposal for a new program to complement the Anaheim Angels Youth Programs. The eighteen teams in this competition were taken on a tour of Angels Stadium and allowed to interview Matt Bennett, Anaheim Angels community relations manager. Davis and his team were awarded first place. The National Management Institute is a terrific tool for networking between students and companies: Last year’s winning proposal was actually implemented by the Nashville Predators Hockey Team.

While Michigan chapters fared well in the preliminary competitions, with most students presenting in the finals, Dearborn was the only chapter to place in the top three. “I was particularly pleased with the professional manner in which our students conducted themselves,” said Michael Kolacz, DEX faculty advisor. “It was extremely gratifying when an advisor from another institution approached me and indicated that she was impressed with the way our team conducted themselves.”

“For me, this was an award that I will treasure.”

DU women’s basketball: Panther players qualify for NAIA, inspire Sioux City children

The Davenport University women’s basketball team made history by qualifying for the NAIA National tournament in Sioux City, Iowa. In just their third year as a program, the Panthers became the fifth-ever Michigan college or university team to qualify for the NAIA tournament. While in Iowa, the Panthers’ focus was not just on basketball. “We are so thankful for the opportunities that we have all had,” said head coach Mark Youngs. “Although it is nice to win basketball games and be successful, I believe the girls understand that because of their opportunity to play college sports, they have been able to experience so many other things. I think it is important for us to get into the schools and out into the community and let the children know about our experiences. Maybe we can inspire a couple of little guys or girls to become the type of people that our girls are.”

Though the highlight of the trip was playing in front of more than 6,000 fans in their opening-round game against defending national champion Morningside College (Iowa), the team also attended a beautiful banquet with the other qualifying teams, a church service run by the student-athletes themselves, a dinner with a group of families that sponsored the team, and a daylong visit to Holy Cross and Blessed Sacrament Elementary Schools in Sioux City. The Skaggs family, one of those who “adopted” the team during their Iowa stay, wrote in an e-mail to Youngs, “Everyone truly enjoyed being around the team. You have a great group of girls and you are a great group of coaches. It was our pleasure to do everything we did and (we) look forward to next year when you guys come back.”

“Thank you for opening your team up to our families.”

Panther players Danielle French and Shannon Callaghan relax in a Sioux City classroom.
Excellence in Business Dinner Gala: 
Event features Giuliani, raises scholarship funds, honors DeVos

The eighth annual Davenport University Excellence in Business Dinner Gala raised more than $130,000 for student scholarships in West Michigan. Nearly 800 guests enjoyed Rudy Giuliani’s leadership remarks and supported the event at which Betsy DeVos was presented with the 2005 Peter C. Cook Excellence in Business Award.

Dave and Carol Van Andel were the masters of ceremony for the May 13 event; Danny Gaydou, publisher of The Grand Rapids Press, offered the invocation. Guests heard from Davenport University representatives including President Randolph Flechsig and Barbara Miers, PhD, executive vice president for advancement and president of the foundation. Rose Benter Obonyo, a Davenport student and scholarship recipient, shared her struggles as a student, wife, and mother of two young boys, and thanked donors for their support of student scholarships. Peter Secchia provided a very personal introduction of Rudy Giuliani, mayor of New York City from 1994 through 2001. Guests also enjoyed an afterglow reception with music by Replay.

Peter Cook, chair of Cook Holdings, and Elsa Prince-Broekhuizen, mother of the recipient, began the award portion of the ceremony with a glowing and personal introduction of Betsy DeVos, chairman of The Windquest Group and the first woman to receive this prestigious award. DeVos and her husband, Dick, have been generous supporters of Davenport University, Davenport students and the community.

It is an honor for Davenport University to add Betsy DeVos to this 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 866. 248.0012.

A special thank you to our major sponsors:

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Betsy DeVos receives the 2005 Peter C. Cook Excellence in Business Award. President Randolph Flechsig, Peter C. Cook, Betsy DeVos and Elsa Prince-Broekhuizen.
Masters of ceremonies Dave and Carol VanAndel with Rudy Giuliani

Elsa Prince-Broekhuizen shares memories of her daughter, Betsy DeVos.

Rudy Giuliani enjoys an amusing moment with Wally Bronner.

Rudy Giuliani with Davenport University student Tom Poe.

Rudy Giuliani with Nicolette D’Amours, Davenport student

Rose Bente Obonyo, student speaker, brings the room to tears as she shares her story.

Former ambassador to Italy Peter Secchia.

Rudy Giuliani and Laura and Randy Flechsig

Save the Date ... October 14, 2005

Davenport University

Excellence in Business Dinner Gala

Horizon’s Conference Center
Reception - 6:30 p.m., Dinner - 7:00 p.m.

Honoring
Richard J. Garber
President
Garber Management Group
Owner Saginaw Spirit Hockey
2005 Wallace J. Brooker Excellence in Business Award Recipient

Guest Speaker
Ernie K. Vandor
Legendary Football Coach

All proceeds benefit Davenport University Foundation Scholarship funds.
For more information or to make your reservation, please contact Kevin Schultz
989.835.5588 / 800.968.4860

Summer 2005 Davenport University Magazine
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Thank you for your generosity.
2004-05 Student Ambassadors

Each year, Alumni Relations selects two or three students, based upon a solid academic background and excellent leadership and communication skills, to act as ambassadors for the department. This year’s student ambassadors, Sara Brondsema, Amanda Dykhuis and Tim Stouffer, will act as spokespeople for the West Michigan student body at various Davenport-sponsored. In addition, the student ambassadors will volunteer in the alumni office on various projects including updating the alumni Web site and writing articles for this magazine.

Sara Brondsema
Sara, a sophomore majoring in marketing, is employed part-time in the bookstore at Davenport University in Grand Rapids. After earning her bachelor’s degree, Sara plans to work in media planning. She looks forward to the opportunities that being a student ambassador will present and hopes the experience will be a valuable resource in her career path. She also hopes serving as student ambassador will give her the chance to help students get more involved with university activities, which she believes will help them develop a stronger relationship with Davenport.

Amanda Dykhuis
Amanda, a junior, will graduate with a BBA of accounting information management in May 2006. After graduating, she plans to move forward with two very important educational and career goals: completing her master’s degree and becoming a licensed CPA. Amanda is a student employee in the academic area of Davenport University, is employed at Forest Hills Presbyterian Church as the main nursery caregiver on Sundays, and is very involved with Davenport University and the Business Professionals of America organization. Amanda believes that serving as Davenport University Homecoming Student Ambassador opens up several opportunities for her. She views this role as a time to communicate with Davenport University people inside and outside the walls of the academic building. Amanda looks forward to forming new relationships and getting to know alumni and others connected to Davenport while she serves as student ambassador.

Tim Stouffer
Tim, a sophomore at Davenport, is working toward a bachelor’s degree in international business and marketing. Tim, a Business Professionals of America member, has worked with the University to advance student leadership. As a student ambassador, Tim is enthusiastic about representing Davenport University, the student body, and the alumni. Of all the opportunities being a student ambassador will bring, Tim most looks forward to meeting new people and helping Davenport move into the future.

Davenport University Alumni Association: What are we all about?

As a new member of the Davenport University Alumni Association Board of Directors, I am often asked about the main purpose of the Davenport University Alumni Association, what the association offers to DU graduates and my role within the board. As such, I want to share these answers with my fellow alumni and explain how you, too, can get involved. The Davenport University Alumni Association Board of Directors’ job is to advise the Alumni Association in providing events and programs for graduates and avenues through which alumni can interact as described in our purpose statement:

The Alumni Association Board of Directors will exist as a volunteer board which will act as a catalyst to develop cohesive ties between all Davenport University alumni regionally, nationally, and internationally; to promote the general welfare of Davenport University; to build loyalty and support among students and graduates; to promote opportunities for alumni to serve the university; and to develop alumni programs and events that will perpetuate interaction between alumni and the entire Davenport University community.

“To accomplish this goal, the association sponsors local, regional and international activities including sporting events, travel programs and other gatherings that offer opportunities for socializing and networking. These events provide the means for former classmates to reunite and are a visible method of advertisement by which outsiders are made aware of the University and what it has to offer. “Becoming a member of the alumni association or board of directors is an easy way to ‘give back’ to the University and experience the camaraderie of being part of a special group of individuals. Members receive various benefits at no charge, including access to Davenport computer labs, libraries and career services. Other benefits include free refresher classes, a 10% discount on specialty items at DU bookstores, and discounts on many useful items and services. Participating in alumni association programs and events is a great way to further professional accomplishments and visibly display the pride of being one of 45,000-plus alumni worldwide.

“There is much you can do to become involved with the alumni association. I encourage students to get involved with the association now, rather than waiting until graduation. I also encourage graduates to stay connected by signing up on the Alumni Connections Web site at www.alumniconnections.com, a great resource for up-to-date alumni information. As the Davenport University motto says: Make a living. Make a life. Make a contribution.”

—Brian Jankow ’90, ’04, Davenport University Alumni Association Board of Directors member
2005 Davenport University Alumni Awards Banquet

Over 100 graduates and friends of Davenport University gathered at the Amway Grand Plaza in downtown Grand Rapids on April 23, 2005, to recognize three extraordinary alumni and one staff member for their notable achievements and outstanding service to the University and the community. The evening began with an elegant reception followed by a gourmet dinner and awards program.

The Distinguished Alumni Award
This year’s Distinguished Alumni Award, the highest bestowed alumni award, honors Carol E. Greene (Kuhlmann) ’35.
Carol E. Greene graduated with a general business degree from Davenport Institute in 1935. After one year with another organization, she started with and rose through the ranks of Michigan Bell, becoming their school staff consultant then moving on to recruit employees for Michigan Bell at local colleges. Greene worked her way up to become the first woman on the management team for Bell in West Michigan; she retired in 1983. While attending Davenport, she was a founding member of the first Davenport sorority, Alpha Iota, one of the University’s largest student/alumni organizations. Through her efforts with Alpha Iota, the Sunshine Guild, a school helping mentally disabled children through Sunshine Hospital (now Kent Community Hospital), was created. The sorority was very active and made a point to not be only a social club, but to contribute greatly to the Grand Rapids community. Greene continues to support the University through the Davenport University Foundation and by attending alumni association and foundation events. She received the Dedicated Alumni Award in April 1999.

Greene has dedicated herself to educating people on “giving back.” She contributes regularly to numerous charity organizations and constantly strives for ideas on what she can do to share with others less fortunate than herself. She has distinguished herself through years of hard work, and dedication to providing education to those around her. Ever humble, Greene would like to dedicate this award to the memory of all deceased Davenport University faculty members, who taught so many throughout the years.

The Hy Berkowitz Professional Excellence Award
The 2005 Hy Berkowitz Professional Excellence Award honors graduates William J. Dolunt ’91 and Jeffrey A. Dykehouse ’91, who exemplify the University motto: “Make a living. Make a life. Make a contribution.”

William J. Dolunt, a retirement planner for AAA Financial, has been in the financial services business since 1986 and is dedicated to helping his clients gain the peace of mind that comes from knowing that their own future, and that of their family and heirs, is more financially secure. Dolunt, a U.S. Navy veteran, owned his own business for 10 years. He has been married for 16 years to Beth (’90), and has two sons. He became a Dearborn Alumni Association Board member in 1996, was vice-president in 1999, president from 2000–01, and vice chairman of the Davenport University Alumni Association Board in 2002. Dolunt...
Jeffrey A. Dykehouse, president/owner, Dykehouse Photography, graduated from Davenport in 1991 with a Bachelor of Business Administration. He furthered his education at Michigan State University in 1993, with a graduate degree. His professional employment has included work in the for-profit and not-for-profit sectors. Dykehouse joined the professional staff at Davenport University in 1999 as a program coordinator for the Sneden Graduate School program and became associate dean for enrollment and administrative services for the Graduate School in 2000. Four years ago, he decided to follow his dream and pursue photography as his profession. Dykehouse spends much of his time photographing products and buildings for his corporate clients, and is also busy creating award-winning images of people. After being personally effected by cancer within his family, he volunteers his time and talent photographing hospice patients with their families and has gained national attention for his work with pediatric hospice families. He is working with a group of dedicated volunteers to implement a new nonprofit organization that will allow him to help even more hospice families, throughout Michigan and the United States. His images hang in public and private collections throughout the country. He has won many prestigious national awards and last year received a State of Michigan Special Tribute Award from Sen. Bill Hardiman. Dykehouse’s images have been seen in the rotunda of our nation’s capitol in Washington D.C., in national and international publications, in newspapers and magazines, and on billboards. He has had numerous one-man shows and has many images touring the United States in traveling exhibits.

Dykehouse is very active with local civic and charitable organizations. He continues to support his alma mater by donating a portion of his professional services to Davenport University.

The Tyrus R. Wessell Exemplary Service Award

This year’s Tyrus R. Wessell Exemplary Service Award, which honors the commitment and the contributions to Davenport University by longtime faculty member and administrator, Tyrus R. Wessell, is presented to Jacqueline D. Taylor, PhD.

Dr. Jacqueline D. Taylor, vice president for development, began her career with Davenport College of Business in 1997, as the vice president and chief operating officer of the Grand Rapids campus, Mid-State and Northern sites. During this time, she was instrumental in gaining significant enrollment increases for the Grand Rapids campus. Dr. Taylor, named provost of Davenport University in 1999, developed the model for the Learning/Leadership Academy for Davenport, a universitywide program focused on faculty and staff development. Taylor became vice president of diversity and cultural affairs in 2001. In this capacity, she developed several international education exchange programs that have allowed for hundreds of Davenport students to study throughout the world. In addition, she wrote and supervised a number of minority grants that have enabled hundreds of minority students to attend Davenport. Taylor moved into her current position as vice president for development in 2003. She was able to bring visiting scholar Dr. Hisham Nashabe, from the American University of Beirut, to the University through her efforts in acquiring the AUB/Council for International Exchange of Scholars Grant.

In addition to her contributions to the University, Taylor’s commitment to the community at large is unmatched. She is a member of more state, community and professional organizations than can be named, and has won a host of awards for her charitable service. Taylor has distinguished herself as a tireless worker for the University, the broader academic community, and beyond. She has touched many lives at Davenport through her commitment to student development, exemplary service, and true passion for providing higher education to all.

Alumni Board nominations

The Davenport University Alumni Association Board of Directors is currently seeking nominees to fill board positions that will open June 30, 2005. Terms will begin July 1, 2005. If you are interested in serving on the Alumni Association Board and your qualifications would make your participation beneficial to the University, please go to the Alumni section of the Davenport University Web site at www.davenport.edu to complete an online application. Completed applications should be sent via e-mail to Darryl Shelton, executive director of alumni relations, at Dshelton@davenport.edu and questions may be directed to him at 616.233.3419.

Davenport-Saginaw Spirit

On Saturday, March 5, 2005, while enjoying dinner and beverages, Tri-Cities area alumni and their guests filled an exclusive rink-side suite at the Dow Event Center to watch the Saginaw Spirit take on the Sudbury Wolves. Davenport is pleased that the Saginaw Spirit, a junior hockey club, has selected DU as the University of choice for its players. The fun-filled, successful evening event was a great way for graduates to reconnect with former classmates and meet new alumni friends. Those in attendance won prizes and merchandise at the end of each period in a shots-on-goal contest.
DU changes lives in many ways: A new life and love

Frank and Oneita Hunt’s faces light up as they recall the profound impact Davenport University and its faculty had on their future careers and as they re-tell the story of how they met. Both began their higher education at then Detroit College of Business in Dearborn, Frank in 1990 and Oneita shortly thereafter. Frank was very involved in university life, writing part-time for the student paper and, as a Computer Information Systems major, working in the computer lab. And it is in the lab that he met Oneita.

Oneita, an accounting major, had noticed Frank in the computer lab. She was looking into purchasing a computer, so asked Frank what PCs he recommended. Frank used the opportunity to ensure he would see Oneita again: He called her and arranged to shop with her for computers. Frank arrived at the specified time, but Oneita was nowhere to be found: She was playing hard to get. A single mom, working and taking classes, she needed to be sure about Frank before sharing any more of her precious time. Frank was not easily dissuaded; his persistence paid off. The pair made plans for another date and took Oneita’s son and his friends to Chuck E. Cheese. After this meeting, the couple began dating steadily and learned about one another. They both place extreme importance on education, which brought them to DU, and share an intense spiritual background. They even grew up in the same neighborhood, where Oneita remembers watching Frank take karate lessons. They agree that fate brought them to DU and to each other. Within one month, Frank proposed; six months later, on July 18, 1992, the couple married.

Frank graduated magna cum laude with a Bachelor of Business Administration in CIS in 1992. He is a systems analyst for the City of Detroit, teaches adult education at Wayne County Community College, and owns and operates his own business, AdvanceStar Technology Solutions, LLC, doing systems analyses for companies. Frank commends Davenport for teaching him hard work and discipline and for the opportunity to expand himself, personally and professionally. He encourages DU students to get involved on their campus as it completes the “real world” education Davenport provides.

Oneita, who received a BBA in accounting in 2000 and a Masters of Business Administration with a strategic management emphasis in 2002, both from Davenport, is an accountant for the Wayne State University medical school. Oneita feels that she would not have completed her education if not for the encouragement and dedication of the DU faculty. She identified with several instructors who had lived a similar experience to hers and noted that their successes in the work force and direct involvement with her studies were great inspirations.

Frank and Oneita Hunt credit Davenport’s excellent reputation for their success in the business world, stating that “employers know they are getting not only a well-educated but well-rounded employee in a DU grad.” They remain involved with the University, having gone on an Alumni Association-sponsored cruise to Key West and the Caribbean during which they shared the story of how DU changed their lives forever.

Davenport University Alumni Volunteer Program

An extensive survey of alumni regarding benefits and services they want to see implemented at Davenport University brought an overwhelming response: Alumni want a way to ensure current students are afforded the same positive experiences that they had while attending Davenport. The Alumni Volunteer Program is a result of that survey. Alumni are invited to participate and make a contribution by becoming a volunteer today! Volunteer opportunities for alumni include:

Alumni Career Network: Hold informational interviews, be a panelist or guest speaker at a DU class, or interact one-on-one by becoming a mentor.

Alumni Admissions Outreach: Be an ambassador for DU. Refer excellent students that you know to Davenport, or help at recruitment events.

Alumni Events/Programs: Stay connected by working on fun and exciting alumni events, on and off campus.

Alumni Association Board of Directors: Help shape the future of the Alumni Association and the University by applying to be elected to the Alumni Association Board.

To become an Alumni Volunteer or receive more information, visit http://www.davenport.edu/alumnivolunteer or contact Susan Proctor, assistant director of alumni relations, at susan.proctor@davenport.edu.
Career Updates

Mary Ann (Baughman) Bittner, ’68 executive secretarial, has retired from the Van Buren Public Schools where she had been employed for the last 20 years as a secretary. Bittner is currently helping to rebuild Yankee Air Museum.

Cynthia Skillman, ’75 executive secretarial, was recently promoted to supervisor of corporate medical affairs at Oakwood Healthcare Systems.

Beverly (Fishell) Wall, ’77 executive secretary, was honored with the Outstanding Achievement Award from the Center for Empowerment and Economic Development. Wall was honored for helping develop and promote women-owned businesses.

Debi (Wells) Whitman, ’82 executive secretarial, is the coordinator of admissions and records at Ferris State University in Big Rapids, MI. Whitman earned her bachelor’s degree in business administration from FSU and is currently pursuing her master’s degree in career and technical education.

Kimberly (Vanderwall) Wilkins, ’82 accounting, was recently promoted from senior tax preparer to district operations support at H&R Block. Wilkins and her husband have spent the last five years living in England and recently moved back to the United States, where they reside in Texas.

Annette (Rogers) Underwood, ’83 fashion merchandising, returned to school at the University of North Texas, returned to earn a bachelor’s degree in behavior analysis. After working for 19 years at Delta Airlines as a flight attendant supervisor and safety/security specialist, Underwood recently accepted a position in human resources with Tenet Healthcare in Dallas, Texas.

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Betty Butler, ’84 management, has completed her MSA at Central Michigan University and earned a PhD in public administration from Richardson University.

Adeline Vargas, ’86 accounting, has been director of accounting for Lake Erie Land Company since June 1997. Before accepting the director position, Vargas was an accounting manager for a private club in Chicago, from 1987-1997.

Dan Wickman, ’87 general business, is the district manager for AmeriGas Propane. Wickman has been with the company for 10 years.

Annette Hamann, ’88 executive secretarial, recently accepted a position as a senior administrative assistant for the manufacturing operations of Smiths Aerospace in Grand Rapids, MI.

Dewey Ellis, ’89 business administration, is a member of the management team of the newly opened Williams-Sonoma store in Algonquin, IL.

Glenda Tarrant, ’91 management, recently accepted a new position as branch manager at Standard Federal Bank in Detroit, MI.

John Jackson, ’94 business administration, was elected partner in the Litigation section at Jackson Waller LLP’s Dallas office. Jackson represents a wide variety of clients in intellectual property and complex commercial litigation matters at the trial and appellate level in state and federal courts, and in the International Trade Commission. He has more than seven years’ experience and regularly defends and prosecutes disputes involving patent and trademark infringement, unfair competition, breach of contract, securities law, telecommunications law, employment discrimination, class actions, construction, and product liability. Jackson has considerable experience obtaining and resisting temporary restraining orders and preliminary and permanent injunctions. He received his JD degree, magna cum laude, from the University of Illinois College of Law.

Jaime Junior, ’94 medical billing administration, was chosen in June 2004 as Employee of the Year by the JVS Strictly Business

University Alumni Travel Benefits

As a member of the Davenport University Alumni Association, you are kept up-to-date with the University, connected to former classmates, and are afforded great benefits—exclusive to Davenport graduates. Alumni Relations strives to bring you the best benefits that exist. The newest Davenport University Alumni Association benefit is University Alumni Travel Benefits, or UATB. The association has teamed up with UATB to offer great travel deals to Davenport alumni. For more information regarding UATB or any of the great Davenport alumni benefits, contact Susan Proctor, assistant director of alumni relations, at susan.proctor@davenport.edu or by phone at 616.233.3408 or 866.248.0012.

Glenda Tarrant, ’91 management, recently accepted a new position as branch manager at Standard Federal Bank in Detroit, MI.

John Jackson, ’94 business administration, was elected partner in the Litigation section at Jackson Waller LLP’s Dallas office. Jackson represents a wide variety of clients in intellectual property and complex commercial litigation matters at the trial and appellate level in state and federal courts, and in the International Trade Commission. He has more than seven years’ experience and regularly defends and prosecutes disputes involving patent and trademark infringement, unfair competition, breach of contract, securities law, telecommunications law, employment discrimination, class actions, construction, and product liability. Jackson has considerable experience obtaining and resisting temporary restraining orders and preliminary and permanent injunctions. He received his JD degree, magna cum laude, from the University of Illinois College of Law.

Jaime Junior, ’94 medical billing administration, was chosen in June 2004 as Employee of the Year by the JVS Strictly Business Committee. Additionally, Junior was chosen to be the 2004 United Way Torch Lighter and her store was featured on the “Holiday Connection” special that aired Thanksgiving morning.

Jeff Redmond, ’94 international business, received a first-place writing award, for his latest fantasy fiction story, from the 2004 National Fantasy Fan Federation Short Story Contest. Redmond is the author of several collections of short stories with good morals. His new Authors Guild Web site is www.erdabooks.net.

Sharon Jordan, ’95 office administration, received a Managerial Master of Business Administration degree in December 2004, from Northwood University.

Lori Kerlin, ’95 business management, opened Progressive Development, a new business and personal coaching company. She will partner with businesses and individuals who seek improved bottom line results, higher performance and resource optimization.

Glenn Steil Jr., ’95 general business, was recently re-elected to the Michigan House of Representatives, 72nd District. State Rep. Steil and his wife are expecting their third child.

Terry (Barrow) Wilson, ’96 accounting, is a tax associate with H&R Block. Wilson and her husband and daughter reside in Kalamazoo, MI.

Javier Lopez, ’97 general business, was recently promoted to director of corporate development at Cardinal Health, Inc., in Dublin, Ohio. Lopez earned his MBA from the University of Notre Dame in 2000.

Bonnie Chene, ’98 office administration, recently accepted a position as an associate attorney with the law firm of Petersmark & Associates, P.C. in Mount Clemens, MI. Chene is also a 2002 graduate of the Thomas M. Cooley Law School.

Melanie James, ’98 office administration, earned her master’s degree in organizational management from the University of Phoenix in 2003 and was recently promoted from executive assistant to casino administrator at Motorcity Casino.

Sherri Smith, ’00 management, started her own business as an independent distributor for Premier Designs Jewelry. Smith is expecting her second child in October.

Nicolle Handy, ’01 office specialist, has been employed with AAA as a customer service representative for the past two years.
Carmen Johnson, ’02 strategic management specialty, was selected as a recipient of a political leadership fellowship from Michigan State University’s Michigan Political Leadership Program. Johnson was chosen from a pool of over 100 candidates for this public policy and leadership training program, which runs from February to November each year. Johnson is employed with SBC Communications as the Oakland County external affairs director.

Terry Simpson, ’02 finance specialty, was promoted to regional vice president at Atwell-Hicks. Prior to his promotion, Simpson served as the vice resident of corporate services. Simpson resides in Commerce Township, MI, with his wife and two children.

Brandi Houghton, ’03 general business, is employed with Davenport University as a career services coordinator. Houghton has been with Davenport since January 2004.


Andrea West, ’03 applied business, recently accepted a position as a technical writer for the U.S. Army Tank-Automotive and Armaments Command (TACOM) in Warren, MI.

Amanda (Shook) Ypma, ’03 paralegal, and her husband recently purchased their first home and are very excited about starting their family. Ypma is employed as a legal assistant with McDowell Buckman & MacDonald in Holland, MI.

Cindy Hillsey, ’04 management, owner of Virtual Partnering, recently opened her “virtual doors.” Virtual assisting is a new profession where an administrative assistant works in partnership with a busy and successful individual to provide the support that the individual needs without having to be physically present.

Brenda Maks, ’04 entrepreneurship, recently accepted a position as a real estate agent for RE/MAX Blue Skies, in Shelby Township, MI.

Marriages

Deborah (Johnson) Watson, ’91 office administration, was recently married and resides with her husband in Tampa, FL.

Peggy Gallandt, ’95 business administration, was married to Jared Knaup, ’97 physical therapist assistant, in 1999. Gallandt is the assistant director for the North Texas Tech Prep Consortium. Knaup is the director of rehabilitation for Henrietta Care Center. The couple resides in Wichita Falls, Texas.

Amy Atchley, ’01 management, was married to Zeb Johnston on December 18, 2004. The couple resides in Fort Wayne, IN.

Births

Jennifer (Clark) Kratzer, ’94 administrative medical assistant, married Brooks Kratzer in August 2003. The couple will welcome their first child in July 2005. Kratzer has been employed as a transcript coordinator for the last 8½ years. The Kratzers reside in Allen, MI.

Shondra (Weatherton) Brown, ’98 travel and tourism administration, and her husband, Matt Brown, are proud to announce the birth of twin girls, Hope and Faith. The girls were born on April 15, 2004, and join big brother Noah at home.

Sonya (Mahaney) Vandekerkhof, ’98 business studies, married Matthew Vandekerkhof on June 20, 2001. On March 20, 2003, the couple welcomed their son, Matthew Mahaney, to the family. On February 2, 2005, their daughter, Mayson Shamus, was born. Vandekerkhof is a financial planner and partner at ReVan Group LLC. The family resides in Traverse City, MI.
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contact Stephanie Hehl
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