Welcome to Davenport University Today. I invite you to take a look inside to experience Davenport’s commitment to helping students start, stay and succeed.

**START.** We understand that starting college is a huge step and that it’s our job to help ease that transition. We begin by admitting students whose preparedness demonstrates their potential to succeed in a university curriculum. Our advisors then help guide our students toward a curriculum that matches their interests and talents and ensure they receive all financial assistance for which they qualify.
SUCCEED. Our ultimate goal is for our students to succeed by graduating with the knowledge and experience they need to be hired in their chosen career fields. Everything we do – from helping students start and stay to offering a real-world learning environment and degree programs designed to match career demands – is focused on that goal for success.

Randolph K. Flechsig
President
Laura Grala is on her way. And it looks like sister Julie won’t be far behind. Laura graduates from DU in December with a bachelor’s degree in marketing management. Julie just started.

And here’s the really unusual part: both sisters were honored as “Most Outstanding Marketing Student” as seniors at Wyoming Park High.

The prediction came true for Laura. Active in Delta Epsilon Chi (DECA, Inc.) in high school, she went on to join the college organization, DEX. In her very first DEX competition, she took first place in the sales category. She was also a recipient of two Davenport scholarships and was chosen to speak before a crowd of more than 800 people at the annual Excellence in Business dinner.

“Davenport has been phenomenal,” says Laura, who will graduate after just 3½ years. Her ambition is evident as she talks. “I absolutely love sales, and now I have an even deeper desire to succeed. I’m eager to get started. I want to be the stone that creates the ripples.”

That first ripple just might be her own sister. Julie is excited to be studying at DU – in part because of her sister’s success. Julie’s 3.6 GPA helped her win a four-year Lettinga Campus Charter Scholarship. “I was so excited to get it,” she says. “I was speechless. Full scholarships don’t come around very often.”

Is her sister a role model? “She opened my eyes to a whole lot,” says Julie, who already began to network at her new school. “A lot of people know me already. She opened quite a few doors. With how things are going great for Laura, I have no doubt in my mind that I can accomplish my goals and ambitions, just like my sister Laura.”

5 top reasons students choose DU

• Likely to get a good job with a DU degree
• Academic reputation
• Faculty with real-world professional experience
• Small class size
• Reasonable tuition for a private university
DETERMINED TO

SUCCEED

“This is an excellent university. I know I’ll get the education I need for my career.”

Freshman overcomes obstacles

An auto accident during her junior year in high school left Kadi DeHaan with a severe spinal cord injury – and a fierce determination to learn to walk again.

Not at the expense of her studies, however. Kadi graduated on schedule from Byron Center High. And rather than let a wheelchair confine her on graduation day, the gritty young woman maneuvered a walker across stage to accept her diploma. “To get where I am now has been a very long road,” says Kadi, who has been traveling to and from Russia since June for an innovative stem-cell treatment. “It has taken a lot of hard work and tons of therapy.”

That determination will come in handy for Kadi in her studies, which she began here this fall. Fortunately, school expenses are one thing she won’t have to struggle with, after winning a full scholarship from Davenport.

“I always wanted to attend DU because of the accounting program,” Kadi says. “This is an excellent university. I know I’ll get the education I need for my career.”
COMPUTER GUY
SECURING HIS FUTURE
Shares excellent career outlook for network security

“I’ve been the family computer guy ever since we got our first one,” says Lettinga Campus Charter Scholarship winner and computer-guru-since-third-grade Mitch Moody. “I’m really into computers, and Davenport’s program is really good.”

So it’s no surprise that Mitch is studying for a bachelor’s degree in network security here at DU, a nationally recognized leader when it comes to training IT security professionals. It’s also no surprise that the Godwin High grad with a 3.87 GPA won a full scholarship to study at DU.

“I read about the scholarship in the newspaper,” Mitch says. “I got online and applied as soon as applications were available. Davenport is one of the best technology programs in the country. And I’ve heard the career outlook for network security professionals is excellent.”

MAKING THE RIGHT CHOICE
All signs pointed to DU

Imagine you’re a high school senior. Which of the following would influence your college choice?

a) Your mother heard about a scholarship on the radio and urged you to apply.

b) Your uncle, who owns an accounting business, attended the school and recommended it.

c) You heard the school offers an excellent business education and has an outstanding track record for placing graduates in careers.

If you’re freshman Amy Stoepker, your answer would be: “All of the above.”

“I wanted to go into business,” says Amy. “Davenport offers a great education. And I know they have really good career placement services.”

DU also was highly recommended by Amy’s accountant uncle. And as for the scholarship? It’s true her mother heard about it on the radio and encouraged her to apply. Which only goes to show that you should always listen to your mother. Amy’s 3.98 GPA at Grand Rapids Christian High helped her earn a full Lettinga Campus Charter Scholarship.
Helping students develop goals and success tools

If you think of career services as a last stop for students on their way to graduation, you haven’t been to DU. And you surely haven’t talked to Executive Director of Career Services Cindy Whittum.

“We play a key role from enrollment through graduation,” Whittum says. “Nobody’s born knowing how to write a resume’ or find a job. Students need these skills right along with their degrees.”

Career service coordinators system-wide counsel students to help them secure their chosen careers. “What we offer is way above the curve as far as personal service goes,” says Whittum.

Another differentiator is DU’s focus on building solid partnerships with local businesses and community organizations. These great relationships lead to internships and career opportunities for students.

“The reason people go to school is to get a better job,” Whittum says. “That’s why career services is key to both enrollment and retention.”

“What we offer is way above the curve as far as personal service goes.”

COMPETING ON AND OFF THE COURT

Coach sees athletic skills valuable for careers

In his second year as men’s basketball head coach, Lewis Garner is just getting started. “We’re building a team,” he says of DU’s three-year old program.

Garner knows success takes a lot of preparation – on and off the court. He believes the skills that student athletes develop give them an edge as they head into the world after graduation.

“Athletics can round out an education,” he says. “Student athletes learn to compete, which is valuable whether you’re going after a job or moving up the career ladder. They also learn how to prepare mentally and physically for any kind of challenge.” The coach also uses a written contract with his players to help ensure solid academic performance.

Perhaps most important, Garner says, is how athletics teach students to work with others toward a common goal. And that’s important in the business world. Athletes learn it doesn’t matter who gets the glory, as long as the goal is accomplished. And the goal is to win the game, finish the project, get the job done.

“In the end it all comes back as a reflection on the team,” he says, “whether it’s sports or business.”
Scholar athlete fits right in at DU

Four other basketball programs recruited her, but for Megan Peters it was no contest. She signed with DU on a full basketball scholarship.

The 5’11” post player led her Monroe High team to a 22-3 record last year, earning them a second consecutive spot in the state quarterfinals. Her rebounding skill and “basketball IQ” caught the eye of recruiters.

Not to mention a 4.056 GPA, which makes Megan the top scholar among Panther freshmen. She also joins a team whose combined 3.613 GPA is the highest among all National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics schools. Why did she choose Davenport?

“There were a few deciding factors,” says Megan. “First, Coach (Mark) Youngs was very welcoming. I wanted to study business (which made Davenport a good all-around choice.) And I loved the newness here. The facilities, the technology – everything’s new!”

Did the Panthers’ four consecutive winning seasons and four straight years of national tournament qualification influence her choice?

It sure did, Megan says. “I’m going from a winning team to a winning team” . . . in more ways than one.
THE WORLD IS HER CLASSROOM

Real-world teaching keeps students engaged

“I emphasize experiential learning,” says business school faculty member Jackie Anderson. “I get students out of the classroom and into the real world . . . or I bring the real world into class.”

Anderson taught business in Traverse City before recently moving to the main campus. Her long-time experience in brand management, advertising and promotions more than equips her to bring real-world business practices to life for students. “Bringing in the practitioner point of view better prepares students and gets them energized about the possibilities out there,” she says.

“We partner with most of the major employers here,” she goes on. “We’re always doing projects with businesses, taking field trips, having guest speakers, focusing on current events.”

A recent project with the Traverse City Film Festival is a good example. After its first season, Anderson offered to do a market analysis for the fledgling non-profit. Her marketing strategy class performed an analysis and created a marketing plan, which organizers used to promote the 2006 festival. Says Anderson: “That’s the kind of project that gets students jazzed and keeps them coming back for more.”

Students are very satisfied with their DU experience.*

* Based on a 2006 student survey

High marks go to:
Quality of instructors
Technology
Facilities
Assistance finding financial aid
Staff attitude toward students
Ratio of faculty to students
Faculty members with real-world experience
‘THAT’S WHY I TEACH’
Faculty member’s passion is contagious

What’s Cindy Pavel’s number-one rule for keeping students in school? “You don’t retain students if you don’t have passion for what you teach,” she says. “I get excited about my subject matter!”

Rule two: “You need a passion for people. Without relationships, students are just numbers; they feel they don’t belong,” says the health professions department coordinator at DU’s South Bend location. “If you know students’ names and something about them, they see that they matter. They’ll want to be here.”

“I tell my students, ‘I’m willing to work with you toward your degree, and I’ll work as hard as you work.’” Pavel adds emphatically, “‘My goal is to see you walk across that stage at graduation. Helping students succeed is exciting to me. That’s why I teach’.”

Pavel holds bachelor’s degrees in biology and education, along with a master’s degree in public administration with an emphasis in health care. She also is a nationally certified massage therapist and developed DU’s massage therapy programs.

FOCUSING ON THE BIG PICTURE
Six years ago, Pete Anderson had just completed his master’s degree in telecommunications. A nationwide job search narrowed his choices to living near Lake Michigan or in the Colorado Rockies. The lake – and DU – won out.

That big picture kind of thinking is something Anderson tries to impart to his students, too. “I try to help them focus not just on what they’re doing in class,” he says, “but also on where that fits in roles they may find themselves when they leave.”

Hands-on learning plays a big role in his teaching efforts. “Students need both the knowledge piece and the hands-on application of it,” Anderson says. “They keep coming back because they know that what they’re learning they can apply right away.”

He says it’s also a priority to be ahead of the curve – especially when it comes to funding new equipment and software. “We move at a pace that gives students what they need in the workplace,” he says. “They know that when they walk out the door, these are the systems they’ll be working with.”

NO CHALLENGE TOO GREAT
Professor sees no barriers to student dreams

“I love my job,” says Dr. Alexander Israetel, associate professor of mathematics at the DU Warren location.

“When I teach my classes, I am trying to encourage and develop a positive attitude toward math – both in the minds and hearts of my students,” he says.

Israetel is keen on seeing students succeed. He routinely makes himself available for one-on-one instruction. And he’s adamant about showing students how math applies to real life. “Everywhere they need math,” he says. “Even if they think they don’t, they do.”

His own path to success makes him enthusiastic about his students’ prospects. The internationally published Ph.D. in math and physics came to this country 15 years ago from Moscow.

“I came here a stranger. Because of my education and background, I made it as full-time associate professor of math. In a different country! So what chance does an American have to succeed? He quotes Charles R. Swindoll: “When my attitudes are right, there is no barrier too high, no valley too deep, no dream too extreme, no challenge too great for me!”
Denise Oleske, Ph.D, dean, School of Health Professions

**Q:** How is DU meeting the demands of today’s job market?

**A:** Health care ranks second among all businesses for projected job growth. DU offers programs in high-demand fields such as nursing, health information technology and management, health services administration, and medical assisting and medical coding. Students have a wide variety of choices that lead to highly marketable careers.

**Q:** How do you equip students for success?

**A:** I’m very proud of our laddered approach to education in almost all programs. It’s a model that can take students from a certificate to a bachelor’s or master’s degree, and it’s unique in the U.S. Many programs allow students to enter the workforce after one year, and then continue in two- and four-year programs while earning a good salary.

**Q:** What degree programs are hot right now?

**A:** Nursing is always in high demand, especially in Michigan, where we’re in the eighth year of a projected and growing 30-year shortage. Also in demand are programs in medical assisting. This is an area projected for 44 percent growth in Michigan by 2010. DU has an outstanding reputation for the quality of medical assistans we prepare, with students also cross-trained in noncomplex patient care and general management activities for outpatient services.

Graduates from our exciting new bachelor’s program in health information management will be well prepared to do information analysis at the higher level demanded today in health care.
Reid Gough, dean, School of Technology

Q: How is DU meeting the demands of today’s job market?
A: What differentiates the DU School of Technology is that we win based on innovation, not replication or duplication. Our degrees are degrees of the future. We don’t design our programs in a vacuum – we meet with business and government to find out what skills they’re looking for now and years out.

Q: How do you equip students for success?
A: We provide the skills and knowledge necessary for our graduates to find professional level IT positions. Employers seek out our students for their unique skill sets. Our graduates are not commodities; they’re highly sought after assets.

Q: What degree programs are hot right now?
A: Our fastest growing programs are in IT security. It’s one of the largest in the country, and DU is recognized as a leader in the field. Graduates with these degrees are highly marketable and sought after by business.

We’re continuing to build on that with our new biometric security program, the degree of the future. This is how business and government will protect against identity theft and malicious attack. DU is one of first in the country to offer this degree.

Our new gaming and simulation degree addresses a very hot field. Everyone’s playing computer games these days, but this program is much more than that. There’s a tremendous need for software development – not just for games, but for flight simulation in the military, and for surgical simulation in healthcare. Using a computer, students can actually create a simulated person – and then medical students can use the computer program to simulate a gall-bladder surgery or whatever, before actually operating on a human being.
Q: How is DU meeting the demands of today’s job market?
A: We offer dynamic, relevant degree programs. We’re always updating our curricula to meet the demands of business today, as well as anticipate the future.

Q: How do you equip students for success?
A: Our programs give students the practical skills they need in a highly competitive marketplace. Many of our faculty members are business practitioners with real-world experience. We place a great emphasis on internships. Study abroad is a requirement for international business majors. DU students know they’ll graduate with the knowledge and skills that today’s and future employers demand.

Q: What degree programs are hot right now?
A: The new honors accounting program offers a BBA and an MBA in professional accountancy in just five years. It provides an honors credential on students’ transcripts, along with the eligibility to sit for five professional accounting certifications.

The new service management & marketing program is a combined marketing and management bachelor’s degree that anticipated our economic shift from manufacturing to services and provides the ability to function effectively in the retail and services industries. There’s high demand today for graduates who can improve customer service and build customer loyalty.

Our bachelor’s degree in international business is focused on providing business fundamentals along with skills to manage cultural, social, and linguistic diversity in an ever-changing global marketplace.
Lessons are everywhere for active students

Successful students do more than study. “Those who get involved in campus activities tend to stay in school and get better grades,” says Kristie Morin, executive director of student life. “They connect with each other and build lifelong friendships. They learn more about the University, which encourages them to have a commitment to the school by giving back as alumni.”

Campus activities also help students connect with faculty and staff, and they help develop leadership skills, responsibility, and accountability to others. Intramural and club sports, community volunteering, and events like the Panther Prowl welcome week, Homecoming and Winterfest are among the activities that round out student life at DU.

“Coming to a university is a big life change,” Kristie says. “Students need support both in and out of the classroom. We have a commitment to their development in relation to their studies as well as with work, friends, and family.

Partnerships benefit business and students alike

Davenport University is renowned for immersing students in real-world practice. But the benefit can go both ways. So says management professor Dr. Jack D. Gichy, CM. He’s the liaison with Cascade Engineering, a Grand Rapids plastics manufacturer whose unique 18-year partnership with DU allows some employee training to count as DU coursework.

Gichy is a trainer, educator and consultant at Cascade, primarily focusing on leadership training and development. Gichy partnered with the company to develop a Sustainable Leadership Certificate, augmenting DU’s Leadership and Human Resources Management Certificate that’s available to employees. “We consult and train in these areas because of the expertise we’ve developed,” Gichy says, noting that DU helped offer Cascade employees preparation for the national Certified Manager (CM) credential.

On the flip side, Gichy’s work at Cascade finds its way into his DU classroom. “My work at Cascade Engineering makes me a better teacher,” he says, “because I’m at the forefront of current issues like sustainable business development. The type of partnership we have with Cascade Engineering is definitely a win-win.”
A CHANCE TO BECOME YOURSELF

Student one of select MTV Storm Corps

Tiffany Beaudry is big into volunteering. The DU sophomore from Wayland jumped at the chance to join fellow students who sacrificed their spring break to help victims of Hurricane Katrina.

So when she saw an ad about “making a difference” with the MTV Storm Corps relief team (a select group of 100 national college students), she couldn’t resist vying for a spot. “I didn’t expect to win,” says Tiffany, who composed two 300-word essays as part of her entry.

But win she did – and had to be on a plane bound for Mississippi in less than two weeks. Tiffany was sent with other student volunteers from across the nation to Biloxi, where in one week they tore down and rebuilt a home destroyed by fire in the hurricane.

“It was awesome,” says Tiffany, adding that she’d do it again. In fact, through contacts at DU, she’s applied to participate with Habitat for Humanity on another home-building trip.

“It’s great to have so many opportunities here at Davenport,” says Tiffany. “It’s really a chance to become yourself.”

BUSINESS CLASS TRAVELERS

Europe is the classroom for students studying abroad

More than ever, today’s students need exposure to the workings of international business, according to Frank Novakowski, department coordinator for business management studies at Lettinga campus. DU encourages overseas study; in fact, study abroad is a requirement for international business majors.

Novakowski, James Auld and Tim Omstead (Caro campus) accompanied 15 students this summer to Germany and three other European Union countries. Besides doing course work to earn up to six credits, students visited breweries, bakeries, a salt mine and other establishments for an up-close look at European business practices. They also toured castles, museums, the site of the Nuremberg trials, the International Court of Justice in the Hague and more.

The trip was tailored to DU students. “We chose the content, we had contacts to create a path through Europe, and we made it affordable,” said Novakowski. “It was a blend of course content and cultural immersion lab, with exposure even to the commercial implications for EU political issues. For instance, Turkey’s request for admission into the EU was lunch-time conversation.”

DU encourages overseas study; in fact, study abroad is a requirement for international business majors.
About 4,500 students from across the nation participated in the Business Professionals of America’s 40th National Leadership Conference. Among the thousands, every single one of the nearly dozen DU students who participated in competitive events received awards. Two teams – the financial analyst and network design teams – took first place. Pictured from left to right are financial analyst team members Terisa Bennett, Stan Jarosz, Barbara Gering, and Deb Wingerter.

Top student credits faculty for success

“I’m a people person,” says Rachel Hinken, who during her senior year switched from finance-focused business studies to a degree in human resources management.

“I found I enjoyed working with people more than numbers,” she says. “I learned a lot about myself.”

Rachel credits DU faculty and advisers with helping that process along. With their encouragement, she got involved in HR activities, including a Delta Epsilon Chi International (DEX) Career Development Conference. She took first place in human resources management decision-making in competition against hundreds of students from around the world.

“I went to DU thinking I’d just go to class and go home,” Rachel admits. But she found herself with a network of friends, including many professionals. “One thing that’s unique about Davenport is the diverse enrollment. You meet working people with lots of different kinds of experience.”

That includes faculty members who go out of their way to help students succeed, she says. “They’re more than willing to help, not only in class, but outside, too. They really go above and beyond for you.”
For a guy who’s passionate about sports, Marc Lira’s internship was a dream come true. (And more than he ever bargained for.)

The business management grad and captain of the Panther hockey team landed a spot with – not one but two – newly formed professional basketball teams: The International Basketball League’s Grand Rapids Flight and Holland Blast. To Marc’s surprise, team owners and top management included him in strategic and operational planning meetings right from the start.

The result was first-hand experience in launching a professional sports team on a shoestring budget. “These guys had to do everything themselves,” Marc says. “And I got in on all of it: management, financials, marketing, promotions, sponsorship sales, ticket sales, player negotiations.” And, as he discovered, a lot more.

Said team GM Tom Moore: “Marc commanded respect from all our staff. From the beginning he became a part of our staff and took a leadership role. We never had to create ‘projects’ for Marc; he was always there and a part of our team.”

“And I got in on all of it: management, financials, marketing, promotions, sponsorship sales, ticket sales, player negotiations.”

Said Moore: “Every intern we have will now be judged according to Marc’s standards.”

Said DU President Randolph Flechsig, who had a chance to review the internship experience with Marc: “His excitement was overwhelming. It’s great to hear firsthand how the real-world internship experience brings classroom learning alive and helps remove walls between the classroom and the workplace. The experience better prepared Marc to hit the ground running.”
INTERNSHIP SEALS THE DEAL

All knowledge can be applied to the job

How much do internships matter? Just ask Nikki Vandenberg. She’s one of many DU grads who’ve been successful in their employment bids because of their internship experience.

“Who would have guessed that I’d actually be working in a job similar to my internship?” wrote the HR grad in an email to advisers soon after being hired. “The internship sealed the deal for me.”

Nikki’s internship at Davenport included work on development of a new employee benefits package. “Everything I learned can be applied to my job,” she says. “Most of it I couldn’t learn only in a classroom setting.”

I was interested in interning because it’s really the only way to break into HR. It’s such a tight market. It was the best decision I ever made. DU knew exactly what I would need to know for the real world. They didn’t have me filing or doing clerical work. I worked on actual projects that were useful.”

“It was the practical experience I got that helped me land this job,” she adds. “My internship definitely paid off.”

Most graduates believe the value of their education is excellent or good.*

95% of graduates reported gaining new skills
94% gained a sense of satisfaction/accomplishment
Most graduates within a year have a career either somewhat or very related to their degree

*All findings from the 2006 survey of DU students 12 months after graduation
EXTRA EDGE

Accounting student likes honors program upside

As an international student, Jan Hintze figures he needs every advantage he can get. That’s why, on the advice of his academic coordinator at DU’s Holland location, Jan applied for acceptance in the new honors accounting program.

The selective program enables students to earn a combined bachelor’s and master of business administration degrees in professional accountancy in just five years. Students earn an honors credential on their transcripts and are eligible to sit for five professional accounting certifications.

“I need to be outstanding,” says Jan, a student from Germany who spent half of his growing up years in England. “An extra edge like this should help persuade an employer to hire me.”

He says the new program is a great opportunity. “I like the fact that I’ll have a personal mentor to help with course work and help me get in touch with employers who are hiring.

“The program promotes the professionalism that’s in everyone but may not be brought out in other programs,” Jan says. “I think it can really push me forward.”

Basketball player and honors accounting student a winner

Sara Haverdink has a lot going for her. As a freshman last year, the 5’3” standout guard from Byron Center was one of the first local players ever signed by the Lady Panthers basketball team. She studies accounting at DU on an academic scholarship. And now she’s been accepted into the Honors Accounting program in the Donald W. Maine School of Business.

The program is designed to attract high-quality students and offers a combined BBA/MBA in five years. Students must have at least a 3.2 GPA and submit a written application along with letters of recommendation. An interview with the selection committee is the final determiner for admission to the elite program.

Sara’s accounting instructor encouraged her to try for a spot. “I applied because you get your master’s in five years,” she says, adding that she planned to go after an advanced degree anyway. “It’s a more accelerated program. I think it will give me an advantage when I’m out there interviewing for jobs.”
It’s all part of preparing students for success in their chosen professions.

Grads credit unique excellence system

An expectation at Davenport is that graduates will leave demonstrating three fundamental competencies that are the essence of the Davenport University Excellence System, or DUES:

• Dynamic leadership
• Universal communications
• Professional excellence

These epitomize the key practical and theoretical skills DU imparts through all academic programs. It’s all part of preparing students for success in their chosen professions. By “paying their DUES” DU graduates are well equipped to succeed in their careers — and in life.

The value of DUES was expressed by the 2006 student commencement speakers, who all gave credit where credit was due to the DUES system. Here are some of their comments:

“As we enter the business world … I challenge all of you to plant and sow the seeds of dynamic leadership, universal communications, and professional excellence. Lead with a vision of wisdom and integrity. As you face obstacles … turn back to the DUES system for guidance.”

Natalie Albin

“Professional excellence goes beyond leadership and communication … by maintaining integrity, adapting to change, meeting challenges, and exceeding expectations.”

Holly Ward

“Teaching us how to successfully integrate honesty and integrity into our lives instilled professional excellence.”

Patricia A. Myles
Successful alum supports his school

Scott Moll is a busy guy. The vice president and part owner of family-owned companies balances family and work— including a 90-minute round-trip commute each day.

And he still finds time to be an active DU alumni supporter. “I knew I wanted to go into business in some form,” says Moll, who graduated from Davenport in 1997 with a degree in business administration. “I liked the one-on-one experience and the smaller classes. Faculty put students in situations they’d experience out there in business. They really prepare you for the street—so you’re comfortable in whatever you choose to do.”

Moll recently got involved with DU’s alumni. Why spend his free time volunteering? “I think it’s important to give back,” Moll says. “You’ve gotten something that’s helped you succeed. It’s good to see if something you do can help somebody else.”
“I realized that my whole Davenport experience is what got me in the door,” says alumna Sandy Knoll-Zimmer about applying for jobs after graduation. “The instructors were professionals in the business world,” she says. “They brought practical experience into the classroom that really made sense to me.” Now a bank assistant vice president charged with employee education, Sandy is often on the road making presentations – using skills she honed at DU.

Sandy has long held office in Alpha Iota, a women’s business sorority that got its start at DU, and is involved in many community service projects. A favorite outreach is the Women’s Resource Center’s Professional Clothes Closet, which provides “gently used” clothing for disadvantaged women re-entering the workforce. Sandy also volunteers with DU’s Alumni Association.

Volunteering has added many close relationships to Sandy’s network of friends and business associates. “If I benefited from my experience at Davenport, it makes sense to give something back so others can benefit, too,” she says. “I’m proud to say I went to DU.”