A Place of Their Own
Student Center Opens in 2008
Thank you!

In recognition of your generous support of Davenport University and our students, this issue of DU Review includes a list of our donors. Behind each name is a special story about how your scholarship contribution made a difference.

For some, a scholarship was the incentive they needed to start at Davenport University. For others, extra financial help was just what they needed to stay with us. Most important, a scholarship often is the support a student needs to succeed and reach graduation and the fulfillment of a career dream.

If your name is on our list, we sincerely thank you on behalf of our scholarship recipients— the students— who benefit in countless ways from your contributions. You can feel gratified to be a contributor to a dynamic and growing Davenport University, where prepared students receive a practical education and earn the most relevant degrees any university can offer.

The vision for our great University now turns to where we must be in five years to meet and exceed our long-range goals for quality in education. We must embark on a bold new era of philanthropy, building upon your generosity and continuing to reach out to other first-time givers. Continued support from our alumni, donors, and trustees is essential as we build this new phase of benevolence.

We are counting on you to spread the word to potential new donors about the value of an investment in Davenport students. It is noble to give to advance the education of students. It’s a gift that makes for a better future for all of us, for generations to come.

Sincerely,

[Signature]
A place of their own

Construction begins on the Davenport Student Center

Davenport students are abuzz about all of the activity taking place on campus lately – activity that involves huge piles of dirt and plenty of construction equipment.

Plans for a new Student Center, including a field house, are one step closer to becoming a reality. The University broke ground for the building this fall, and construction is moving forward at the main campus.

The 85,000-square-foot facility, designed to be the hub for campus, athletic, and Student Life events, will provide a central place for students to congregate, relax and socialize – just steps from the residence halls. The center also will offer plenty of social and recreational activities on evenings and weekends.

“A student center is the focal point of any traditional, residential campus and will be the linchpin for developing our main campus,” says President Randolph Flechsig. “Davenport is dedicated to a quality learning experience in the classroom that prepares students for careers. But beyond the classroom, we also need to provide the social interaction and activities that will help prepare students for life.”

“The students are really excited about the new building,” says Kristie Scanlon,
“Davenport is dedicated to a quality learning experience in the classroom that prepares students for careers. But beyond the classroom, we also need to provide the social interaction and activities that will help prepare students for life.”

President Flechsig
Annual Foundation Scholarship Dinner brings donors, students together

“Your generous support allows us to fulfill one of our key values: Serving students with quality.”

– Mike Volk, executive vice president of finance/CFO, in his University update

Students and donors attended a reception and dinner one evening last October at the Egypt Valley Country Club in Ada, Michigan. They gathered to honor the generosity of individual and corporate donors to the Davenport University Foundation.

The donors invited to the event all had established “named” scholarships – nearly 290 for the 2007-08 school year – according to Davenport Senior Vice President for Major Gifts, Dr. Barbara Mieras. Students receiving these scholarships also were invited to attend, along with their parents. “I thank you very deeply for giving back some of what you’ve been given,” Mieras told the donor guests in her after-dinner remarks.

Left: Executive Director of Academic Services Joy Harrison speaks with a scholarship recipient and his father. Above: Provost Dr. Tom Brown welcomes two scholarship recipients.
Did you know Davenport has 230 endowed scholarship funds?

For a minimum commitment of $25,000, DU can set up an endowed scholarship fund in your name, too. It’s a gift that not only helps our students, but also pays dividends to you and our communities.

You can take up to seven years to complete your pledge, and the donation is 100 percent tax-deductible.

Donations also can be made to the General Scholarship Fund. Gifts of any size are appreciated. It’s your chance to make a difference in the lives of tomorrow’s DU students.

To give: 616-233-3413 or giving.davenport.edu

“Without your support we wouldn’t be where we are today.”

Scholarship recipient and business major Phil Douthett offered a student’s perspective on the incredible generosity: “DU creates people who give back,” he said. “It is the deliverance of time, heart, soul, energy, mind, spirit – and money – to help those less fortunate. It does not go unnoticed or unappreciated.”

Since its inception in 1982, the Foundation has awarded more than $9 million in scholarships to Davenport students. This year, students will receive awards of nearly $690,000.

“Clockwise, from top: Scholarship recipient and student speaker Phil Douthett talks with donor Joseph Buzzitta. Phil Douthett offers his thanks on behalf of all students. Dr. Barbara Mieras, senior vice president for major gifts, addresses guests at dinner and thanks donors. Guests enjoyed getting acquainted with students, parents and donors. Garret Kamphouse and other guests enjoy a special evening.”
Golfers get in the swing for annual outing

The 21st Annual Davenport University Scholarship Golf Classic took place at the Egypt Valley Country Club on August 27. More than 220 golfers teed off on a gorgeous, sunny day – the highest number of participants ever for this premier event.

Following the 18 holes, golfers enjoyed dinner and a silent auction. Popular auction items included a suite for 16 at a Detroit Red Wings game, a sunset cruise for 10 complete with cocktails and hors d’oeuvres, and four tickets to a Chicago Cubs game with round-trip limousine service.

This very successful event raised $69,000 for student scholarships.

Many thanks to all of the participants and supporters, including the golf committee and chairman Bill Lettinga for organizing this terrific event, plus the Advancement Department, Athletics and DU student athletes, all of whom made this year’s outing so successful.

Above: Brian Uliki and DU men’s basketball coach Lewis Garner enjoyed this year’s Golf Classic.

Alumnus and DU Foundation Trustee Mike Door (’77) sinks a putt while Bill Leatherman, Jeff leatherman and Mike Leatherman look on. A record 220 golfers participated in the outing.
Planned giving can help a student start, stay and succeed

Planning your gift to Davenport University now can help a DU student start, stay, and succeed in the future.

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

**Bequests**
Remember DU in your estate with a gift through your will or trust. If you’ve already named DU as a beneficiary in your will, please let us know so that we can express our appreciation and make you a member of the Davenport University Legacy Club.

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

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

Davenport’s gift-planning professionals can assist you in exploring your ideas for remembering and supporting the University’s academic and/or athletic programs.

For more information on how you can help DU students and the University, please contact Dr. Barbara Mieras, senior vice president for major gifts, at 616-233-3413.

Note: This article is meant to describe ways in which you can assist Davenport into the future; however, for assistance in planning charitable gifts with tax and other financial implications, you’ll want to seek the services of appropriate advisors.

CARRY ON THE TRADITION

Commitment to excellence in education is at the core of DU. Make sure it continues. Make an annual gift to the Davenport Foundation Scholarship Fund to support the students and the programs of your alma mater.

That’s our DU

Please send your gift to

Office of Advancement
415 E. Fulton St.
Grand Rapids MI 49503
Ph: 866-248-0012

Or make your gift online at www.davenport.giving.edu
The Davenport University Legacy Club

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

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

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We have taken great care to ensure the accuracy of our donor honor roll. Please call the Office of Advancement at (616) 233-3417 if an error has been made or you would like to change your acknowledgement listing. Thank You.
One University, one commencement

Next spring, DU will hold its first-ever commencement ceremony as one Davenport University. The 2008 commencement is scheduled for 2 p.m. Sunday, April 27, at Van Andel Arena, in Grand Rapids.

One ceremony is typical of universities – even those with several locations like DU – and will help focus on holding a single quality event that will be most meaningful and memorable for each of our graduates. A single commencement will better reflect the growing stature of DU and offer an opportunity for all DU graduates to share this once-in-a-lifetime achievement at the same ceremony. Related events at the main campus also are planned to make commencement a day of celebration for graduates and their families. Faculty and staff from across the University will be attending the ceremony to congratulate students.

Study Abroad offers insight on global business

DU students took advantage of study combined with travel in two different Study Abroad programs last summer. Both involved three weeks of study and cultural immersion in some of Europe’s largest cities. The excursions offer students the opportunity to earn academic credit while gaining insight into international business practices, European culture and the EU’s role in the global economy.

The London-Paris trip was led by accounting/finance Associate Professor Mark Griffin, while academics department coordinator Alan Walczak and business faculty member Frank Novakowski headed up the Germany/European Union program. A China program also is available.

See photos and more information at www.davenport.edu/graduate

www.davenport.edu
Accounting students honored

Three Davenport University accounting students were selected to participate in the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA) annual summer leadership conference held in Atlanta. Meha Patel, Channy Theav and Clarence Stamps II were invited to participate in the highly competitive program, which is limited to 100 students nationwide.

The three-day conference focused on the importance of obtaining the CPA designation and participants learned about various and flexible career paths in the accounting field. Professionals in public accounting, private industry and academia took part in discussion forums and speeches focusing on the development of strong leadership skills. Alumni from past workshops assisted with activities and offered students advice and helpful tips on passing the CPA exam and entering the workforce.

In addition, Channy Theav was awarded a $3,000 AICPA 2007-2008 minority scholarship in recognition of her high GPA, demonstrated leadership abilities and interest in accounting.

Students head “Into the Streets” to give back to community

More than 40 Davenport students participated in the University Volunteer Center’s first-ever “Into the Streets” program this fall. The one-day volunteer event is designed to introduce students to meaningful service opportunities in the community.

Students volunteered more than 175 hours to area organizations such as Mel Trotter Ministries, Arbor Circle, Grandville Senior Neighbors, Mel Trotter Ministries Store, John Knox Community Food Pantry, Child and Family Resource Council, Second Harvest Gleaners Food Bank, God’s Kitchen, United Community Methodist Church, Habitat for Humanity of Kent County and Davenport University’s Adopt-A-Highway. They painted, helped with bulk mailings, packed food pantry orders, served lunches and more.

Spotlight on MSIA

Davenport now offers a master of science in information assurance (MSIA), furthering its leadership role in this specialized educational field.

“We’re becoming widely recognized as a leader in information and network security education,” says Reid Gough, dean of the School of Technology. “This program is needed in today’s information technology workplace.”

The degree will equip graduates to minimize risk to an organization’s or individual’s information assets by building secure systems. Students will learn the tools and techniques for today’s global environment, and they’ll also learn how to apply their knowledge to real-world security problems.

James Placer, a senior security analyst at ISG in Holland, is one of the first to enroll in the program. “An MSIA from Davenport will be both a recognized and valued credential in the world of information assurance,” he explains. “Davenport has followed the recommended standards of the National Security Administration in formulating the program—setting a high standard for quality.”
“Panther Prowl” prepares new students for university life

Panther Prowl was three fun-filled days aimed at helping new students learn to adjust during their first year of college. Staged on the main campus August 29 - 31, the program covered topics including how to succeed academically, getting involved in campus life and developing leadership and life skills. Participants in Panther Prowl got to move into the residence halls early, too!

Dr. Mieras appointed to new fund-raising role

As we raise the quality bar to admit better prepared students, grow the main campus and support our locations, we have a growing need to increase donations for endowed scholarships and capital projects. After evaluating our Foundation structure, planning process, programs, and personnel, we have decided to create a new Office of Advancement to lead fund development in the future. We are embarking on a search for an executive vice president for Advancement as part of this change.

This affords Dr. Barbara Mieras the opportunity to have the time to focus on the role she truly loves - a fundraising leadership role as the University’s Senior Vice President for Major Gifts. Once a new executive vice president for Advancement is appointed, we also will be addressing further Advancement and Alumni staffing needs.

DU vice president retiring

Jacqueline D. Taylor, Ph.D., has announced her retirement from her position as Vice President for Development effective December 31. During her ten years here she has helped raise contributions in support of our students and has been an enthusiastic DU ambassador in our communities. Prior to DU, she served as president and vice president of community colleges in Michigan, New York and Pennsylvania. She also has established educational partnerships with a number of international colleges and has helped with student study abroad and faculty exchanges.

She serves a long list of boards and her many distinguished awards include the Distinguished Alumni Award from Michigan State University, the Athena Award from the Grand Rapids Chamber of Commerce, and being named one of the “50 Most Influential Women in West Michigan.” We thank her for her service to the University and wish her well in her future endeavors.

Men’s golf team repeats as WHAC Champions

Davenport University claimed a second straight Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference men’s golf championship by firing a three-under-par-285 in the final WHAC jamboree. Zac Bested took WHAC Individual Champion honors for the season. Joining Bested on the All-WHAC first team were teammates Nick Boone and Kale Waaso who finished second and third respectively. Siena Heights’ Jack Garswood, Aquinas’ Brian Hayward and Madonna’s Steve South rounded out the WHAC first-team. Davenport head coach Phil Sweeney was named WHAC Coach of the Year. More information: athletics.davenport.edu
Davenport Alumni Day @ Homecoming, October 26, 2007

Alumni Day was once again a huge success and fun time for all. This fifth annual event hosted by the Alumni Association at Patterson Ice Center in Grand Rapids was attended by some 75 alumni who together with current students and guests totaled nearly 400 at the pre-game festivities. Past students from classes dating back as far as 1959 were in attendance. Davenport alumni and their families enjoyed a wonderful evening socializing with old friends, faculty and staff.

The game was the icing on the cake as our Panthers were victorious over the Michigan State Spartans, winning the hockey game 4 to 2. This was the fourth consecutive homecoming win over MSU and the fifth straight homecoming win overall.

Thanks to everyone who participated and volunteered to make Alumni Day yet another Davenport success!

Photos left to right: Guests meet the new DU mascot. Students were out in force after a full week of homecoming activities, Robin Cleveland ('00) Alumni Board President and President Flechsig enjoyed the the pre-game tailgater, Alumni David Barret ('01) and Wally Bujak ('95) drop the ceremonial first puck.
Clockwise from left: Many alumni and guests made this a family night out. Panthers score! Joyce Mannor ('59) and Judi Perrin ('64) volunteered at a fun-filled Alumni Day.

got DU spirit?

Shop the DU Spirit Store and get the latest in Davenport University apparel, gifts and Panther products delivered to your door. DU Alumni - get 10% off!

*See www.duspiritstore.com for details on discount

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Successful retiree is proud of his alma mater

Frank Palmer left Davenport College in 1937 with more than a degree in business administration: He met his late wife, Mildred, at one of the school dances.

After marrying, the couple had a son, Richard, and Frank pursued a successful career as a marketing executive. The family often spent their free time on a 32-foot boat they kept in Grand Haven, Michigan.

Frank attributes much of his success in life to what he learned at Davenport.

During his career, Frank was active in several clubs and community organizations, including American Business Clubs (he was the first regional president), AM-BUCS, Power Squadron and the Grand Rapids Chamber of Commerce.

Following 25 years at Michigan Consolidated Gas Co., Frank welcomed retirement. It wasn’t long, though, before his old company called him to ask if he’d come back and help them build a larger customer base. So he worked part-time for two more years and brought in 200 additional customers.

Today, Frank lives at Heather Hills Retirement Home, where he’s made quite a few friends. He’s also awaiting the birth of his first great-grandson. Frank attributes much of his success in life to what he learned at Davenport. He enjoys watching the University’s growth and keeping up on the latest news through the DU Review.

Dr. Barbara Mieras, senior vice president for Major Gifts, visited last fall with DU alum Frank Palmer ('37).
Featured Benefit

Lifetime, tuition-free brush-up classes

Update your skills by taking advantage of FREE brush-up classes. Graduates of Davenport University are eligible for lifetime, tuition-free, brush-up classes on a space-available basis. This benefit applies to courses that students previously passed at Davenport University and that were part of the student’s graduation requirements.

To participate, contact an advisor at any Davenport University location.

Professional

Kyle Thornton, ’89 EMS, has been named chief of the New Mexico Department of Health, Emergency Medical Services Bureau. The Bureau oversees all facets of the statewide EMS system for the New Mexico Department of Health as well as the New Mexico Trauma and Stroke Programs.

Valerie Gallagher, ’93 general business, has recently been promoted to associate director, NDA/ANDA regulatory affairs at Perrigo in Allegan, Mich. Gallagher has been a part of Perrigo’s Regulatory Affairs team for over 10 years and most recently served as senior manager of the NDA/ANDA section.

Laurie Ayers, ’95 business management, has been promoted to senior vice president of global & strategy services for Defensive Countermeasures Institute. The security-consulting firm is based in West Michigan and specializes in self-defense, situational awareness and intelligence.

Mark Minder, ’96 management, has recently joined the team at Raymond James Financial Services Inc. located in Clarkston, Mich. as a senior relationship manager.

Erik Nelson, ’98 general business, has recently accepted a position with C-SPAN television network as a history producer. Nelson will head up a two-year project that will utilize never-before-seen film and audio from 12 presidential libraries to create a 12-part series scheduled to air on successive Fridays this fall. Before joining C-SPAN, Nelson served as the public affairs director at the Gerald R. Ford Library and deputy director of the Robert J. Dole Institute of Politics at the University of Kansas. He has also served as the chief of staff to the newly created Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum in Springfield, Ill.

Doretha McDell, ’01 management, was promoted to lead contract specialist at the Federal Emergency Management Agency in Washington, D.C. McDell currently resides in Kansas City, Mo. and will soon relocate to Washington, D.C. to take on her new role.

Muhammad Agha, ’03 strategic management, has started his own company, Strategic Axis Advisors LLC. Agha also recently was elected to serve as the national project director for the United Nations Millennium Development Goals Project in Syria.

Ramin Oskoui, ’04 marketing, recently accepted a position as a product manager for Google Inc. in Santa Monica, Calif. Oskoui also recently earned an MBA from Clark University.

Tamara Walker, ’06 e-commerce/web development, has just accepted a position as a project analyst – advanced at Electronic Data Systems (EDS) in Detroit, Mich. Walker did contract work for EDS before accepting a permanent position with the company.

Marriages

Erin Smith, ’98 administrative assistant, and Brian Dennig were united in marriage on March 17, 2007. The couple currently resides in South Bend, Ind.

Births

Denyse (Flagg) Bening, ’98 administrative assistant-executive, and her husband, Jarrod, welcomed baby Alexys into their home on April 24, 2006.

Recently married or have a new baby? Promotion at work or a new job? Are you getting ready to relocate?

Please keep your alumni records updated and share any news with your fellow alumni. Email us at alumni@davenport.edu (Be sure to include your full name, class year, major and campus you attended) or log on to: www.davenport.edu/alumclassnotes
Announcing the 11th Annual
DAVENPORT UNIVERSITY
Excellence
IN BUSINESS
DINNER GALA

Friday, May 9, 2008
6 p.m. Reception, 7 p.m. Dinner
DeVos Place, Grand Rapids, Michigan

Honoring Fred P. Keller, chairman and CEO of Cascade Engineering, 2008 Peter C. Cook Excellence in Business Award Recipient
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All proceeds benefit Davenport University Foundation Scholarship funds.
To make your reservation, contact Heidi Sarber 616-233-3416 or 800-248-0012 heidi.sarber@davenport.edu

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