"Davenport really teaches the skills that we look for."

Pam Strohmeyer
Director of Campus Recruitment at Rehmann CPAs & Consultants
with DU graduate Erinn Trask '12
Like any parent or grandparent, I am extremely proud of my children and grandson Charlie. I take great interest in how they are doing, applauding their achievements and encouraging them along the way.

In a similar manner, I’m very interested in how DU students and alumni are doing. I applaud the academic and career successes of the Davenport community, and I’m always interested in working with others to create solutions when things aren’t going as well as hoped.

When I hear from employers about how much they love Davenport students and their workforce preparedness, I am filled with a great pride for the job we’re doing here. After all, that’s the outcome we’re all striving toward – students achieving success in the classroom that translates to success in their careers.

It starts with a curriculum that prepares students for the careers that are hot today. According to research conducted by CareerBuilder with Economic Modeling Specialists (EMSI), DU is preparing students for the top eight jobs requiring a Bachelor’s degree in 2013. That’s based on actual hiring trends since 2010. Meanwhile, DU continues to survey the marketplace to determine new programs to launch as we prepare students to “Get Where the World is Going” and not where it’s already been.

The cover of this issue of DU Review shows an image from our most recent TV advertising campaign, which is all about how DU graduates are in high demand. In the picture is Pam Strohmeyer, Director of Campus Recruitment at Rehmann CPAs & Consultants, and DU Accounting graduate Erinn Trask, class of ’12, a recent Rehmann hire. Pam stated very simply what we strive to achieve: “Davenport really teaches the skills that we look for.”

Pam isn’t just talking about accounting skills. She’s talking about the skills our students develop through Davenport’s Excellence System, such as teamwork, communication, presentation, cultural understanding, and more. Davenport’s Excellence System adds a dimension to our students’ academic training that other colleges just don’t offer. That makes a difference that employers have noticed and that they will continue to seek with DU grads.

Our very clear focus is on the satisfaction of our students and their future employers. As satisfaction scores for these two important groups continue to rise, DU’s future looks very bright indeed.

Sincerely,
Richard J. Pappas, Ed.D.
President
New marketing campaign features students and alumni

Davenport’s new advertising campaign launched in November, showcasing DU alumni and current students from across the state. Focused on the theme that DU teaches the skills that employers want, the TV ads were shot on the University’s W.A. Lettinga Campus and in Troy at the offices of Rehmann, CPAs & Consultants with offices across the United States.

"Davenport really teaches the skills that we look for," states Pam Strohmeyer, Director of Campus Recruitment at Rehmann. "Davenport students have been great for us."

The new ads are titled "Looking at You," a humorous spot showing employers eager to hire DU grads, and "Success Story," a heart-warming story featuring the experience of Rehmann CPAs in hiring DU grad Erinn Trask. Erinn recently finished her Bachelor’s in Business Administration and will graduate in 2013 with an MBA. She is also involved in the Honors Professional Accountancy Program.

Even in a tough economy, employers are seeking out DU grads. Not only are industry leaders like Rehmann willing to go on record about how Davenport does a great job of preparing students, increasing numbers of them are making their way to DU to recruit. The number of employers at DU’s career fair has more than doubled in the past three years. Last year, more than 7,000 unique, single listings of full-time jobs were posted on our career services webpage by prospective employers.

“The key difference between Davenport and other institutions is that we are constantly focused on giving our students the skills they need to succeed in careers that are most in demand in today’s marketplace,” says Kim Bruyn, Executive Vice President for University Relations. “We strive to portray this in our advertising and marketing — to show the real relationships built between our students and potential employers and the advantages of a DU grad.”

Also, Davenport’s focus on in-demand careers in the business, technology and health sectors means DU students are more likely to find open jobs when they graduate. In fact, according to CareerBuilder and Economic Modeling Specialists (EMSI), based on trends in the marketplace, Davenport offers programs that prepare students for the eight fastest growing jobs requiring a Bachelor’s degree.

“As soon as we interviewed Erinn, we knew she was a great fit for our team,” declared Pam. “Our clients love her!”

Commercials are airing on network and cable channels across Michigan, or you can view them on DU’s YouTube channel: youtube.com/user/davenportweb. Or scan the QR code.
After serving for more than 40 years as a member of Davenport University’s Board of Trustees, James N. DeBoer, Jr. announced his retirement in December. Serving as Counsel for Varnum Law, where he had an illustrious career after graduating from the University of Michigan in 1950, Jim’s expertise and wise counsel have been invaluable to DU over many years.

Jim was a neighbor and close friend of former Davenport President Robert W. Sneden when he was asked to serve on Davenport’s board. Initially he helped shepherd DU through accreditation to offer Bachelor’s and Master’s degrees, and later helped with the merger of Davenport College, Detroit College of Business and Great Lakes College to form Davenport University, and establishing the W.A. Lettinga Campus in Caledonia Township. His support also led to the creation of Vision 2015.

“Jim has been the quintessential board member during his time at Davenport,” stated Tracy Graham, Board Chair. “For over 40 years he has provided valuable oversight and guidance to management as well as his fellow board members. His dedication to Davenport students and the financial well-being of the University will always be remembered.”

Jim’s extensive community involvement also has included serving nearly two decades on the board of Metro Health Hospital. In recognition of his service, Metro established an endowed tribute scholarship in his name at DU in 1998. Also, in 2005, Varnum made a major gift to DU to name a conference room in the Margaret Davenport Sneden Library in Jim’s honor. The conference room is used extensively by students and staff.

Jim and his wife Joy have been generous supporters of Davenport over a period of many years. They could often be spotted at DU events and participated in alumni travel trips. They also assisted with DU’s comprehensive campaigns and building projects and, in 2001, established a charitable gift annuity with Davenport. In 2010, the Executive Conference Room in the Robert W. Sneden Center was named for James N. and Joy DeBoer.

“Jim has served Davenport for almost a third of our entire history. That is an incredible commitment of time and talent,” said Dr. Rick Pappas. “I most appreciate Jim’s outstanding level of preparedness for board meetings. Both Jim and Joy have been generous to Davenport and we will always honor them and continue to seek guidance in the future.”

At its 2003 Commencement ceremonies, Davenport recognized Jim with an Honorary Doctor of Laws degree. At its December 2012 board meeting, Jim was presented with a Resolution of Appreciation. The University is deeply grateful for the significant contributions made by Jim through his long service on the board and his friendship with Davenport.
Dr. Michael Bowers appointed Dean for College of Business

After an extensive national search, Davenport University has named Michael R. Bowers, Ph.D., as our new Dean for the Donald W. Maine College of Business. Dr. Bowers began his new role on Jan. 7, 2013.

Dr. Bowers came to Davenport from Rollins College in Winter Park, Fla., where he served as Academic Director for the Center for Advanced Entrepreneurship and Professor of Entrepreneurship and Marketing in the Crummer Graduate School of Business — one of the top MBA programs in the country. Previously, Dr. Bowers served the University of Alabama-Birmingham for 18 years, where he was Chair of the Department of Management, Marketing & Industrial Distribution.

In his new role, Dr. Bowers will lead the development of new programs while overseeing the operations and budget for the College of Business. He will explore new opportunities for business education in Michigan while developing an entrepreneurial program that will serve the needs of the state. His extensive experience in business leadership and development of entrepreneurial programs will be a great asset for DU and the communities we serve.

Dr. Bowers holds a Doctorate of Philosophy in Business Administration from Texas A&M University, a Master of Business Administration in Finance and Marketing from Southern Illinois University, and a Bachelor of Arts in International Affairs and Political Science from Florida State University.

The University’s deepest appreciation goes to Dr. Irene Bembenista, who served as Interim Dean for the College of Business even as she assumed new responsibilities as the Vice Provost for Curriculum Assessment and Graduate Studies.

Carol Van Andel appointed to DU Board of Trustees

Davenport University is pleased to announce that community leader and philanthropist Carol Van Andel will join its Board of Trustees, effective March 2013.

Carol currently serves as Executive Director of the David and Carol Van Andel Foundation and has provided leadership and support to dozens of regional and national organizations focused on education, the arts and wellness.

“We are excited to have a leader of Carol Van Andel’s caliber join Davenport’s Board of Trustees,” said Tracy Graham, Chair of the Davenport University Board of Trustees. “Her passion for education and for the state of Michigan makes her an ideal candidate to serve in this capacity, and I look forward to the many contributions she will make in her new role.”

“The addition of Carol further enhances an exceptional group already serving as trustees,” said Dr. Rick Pappas. “Just last spring we honored Carol and her husband David with DU’s highest honor, the Peter C. Cook Excellence in Business Award, which recognizes exceptional leadership and service to the community. We’re excited Carol will now apply those attributes to help guide this University toward its ambitious Vision for Higher Education.”

Carol Van Andel is a member of the Van Andel Education Institute Advisory Council and the Michigan Colleges Foundation. She also is a Board Member for Grand Action, the Public Museum of Grand Rapids Friends Foundation, the YMCA of Greater Grand Rapids and Bethany Christian Services, and is a past President and Board Member for the Ada Christian School Education Foundation, Opera Grand Rapids and numerous other organizations.
10th Annual Homecoming showcases Panther Pride

The 10th Annual Homecoming Celebration week was filled with fun activities at DU campuses across the state of Michigan. For the first time ever, the featured athletic events were hosted on the W.A. Lettinga Campus, with the DU men’s and women’s basketball squads hosting Marygrove College at the Student Center.

Throughout the week, Student Life sponsored competitions and theme days for students. At the W.A. Lettinga Campus, teams of student residents vied for the inaugural Panther Cup in a series of competitions. Challenges included Flower Fluff Volleyball, Powder Puff Football, a Chopped cooking competition (emulating the popular Food Network program), DU’s Got Talent, and a Chili Cook-off. Teams gained points for attending events, dressing in themed attire and competing. In the end, a team named “Softball Swag” took home the 2012 Panther Cup. DU’s Holland Campus took top honors in the banner decorating contest.

Students Matthew DeVries and Leah Sevcik were selected through a student body vote as 2012 Homecoming Panther Ambassadors, earning $1,000 scholarships for the winter 2013 semester. As Panther Ambassadors, they will assist in planning Alumni and Student Life events and have pledged to be positive representatives of the Davenport community.

Homecoming culminated with victories all around, as both basketball teams defeated their Marygrove opponents and donations of food, supplies and money were collected in support of Gilda’s Club of Grand Rapids.


Middle left: Pounce greets a young DU fan at the Homecoming game.

Middle right: Women’s basketball player Sara Clancy during a time-out huddle.

Bottom: Dance team member Shelby Pouch and Pounce get their school spirit on.
Top left: Online Dean Dr. Christine Wallace, Pounce, Shannon Daley, Dr. Rick Pappas, Dean of Health Dr. Karen Daley and Alexander Cogbill claim front-row seats for DU’s Homecoming games.

Top right: Comedian J. Chris Newberg performs for DU students during Homecoming.

Middle top: Lansing Campus Homecoming banner.

Middle bottom: Staff and students pose with the winning Holland Campus Homecoming banner.

Bottom left: Warren Campus Homecoming banner.

Bottom right: Chopped competition judges Dr. Jodi Hicks, Dr. Larry Polselli, Frank Zerillo, Dr. Karen Daley and Executive Chef Steve Welch dig into a winning entry.
To recognize veterans for their military service, during times of war or peace, Davenport University and its Student Veterans of America (SVA) chapter hosted special Veterans Day events on Monday, Nov. 12, 2012 at the W.A. Lettinga and Warren campuses. Although inclement weather scuttled plans for landings by U.S. Army Blackhawk helicopters at both campuses, the events attracted hundreds of students, faculty, staff and community members.

In addition to a program featuring various speakers capped by a minute of silence, members of the military displayed vehicles and equipment like those currently being used overseas, guests signed a flag and wrote letters to DU students deployed overseas, and local law enforcement, fire and EMS organizations also displayed equipment and talked with attendees.
Livonia Exec. Campus Leader Jim Loughran, College of Technology Dean Mike Clancy, Director of Student Services Paul Beasley, Exec. Director of Community and Government Affairs Deb Bloom and Senator Steve Bieda at the Warren Campus holding a state resolution presented to DU commemorating the 182 Michigan soldiers who lost their lives in the Iraq War.

Kevin P. Doran AEC(AW), U.S. Navy and Myriah S. Higgins LS1(AW/SW/EXW) U.S. Navy at W.A. Lettinga Campus.

DU student signs a Davenport University flag with a message of thanks for our veterans overseas.

Military vehicles on display at the W.A. Lettinga and Warren Campuses.

A mom and her daughter check out riot gear with the Kent County Sheriff’s Department.

U.S. Coast Guard vehicle at the W.A. Lettinga Campus.
Chávez keynotes DU’s Hispanic Heritage Month celebrations

Paul Chávez, President of the National Farm Workers Service Center, Inc., and son of famed civil rights activist and union organizer César E. Chávez, was the keynote speaker at DU’s “Acts of Courage” event on Oct. 18, highlighting Hispanic Heritage Month celebrations. Sponsored in part by the César E. Chávez Unity Committee, the event recognized and celebrated the contributions of César Chávez, a true American hero whose mission was to carry on a timeless vision for a better world where all people are respected.

Also speaking at the event was civil rights leader Jaime Martinez, founder and board chair of the César E. Chávez Legacy and Educational Foundation. The DU Community kicked off its Hispanic Heritage Month observances with a Sept. 20 event featuring a panel of DU alumni, students, faculty and staff sharing their experiences as part of the Hispanic culture. A reception with traditional foods immediately followed. The panel was streamed live to several DU campuses so all could celebrate the vibrant Hispanic culture present within DU.

Special recognition was given to two members of the DU community during the University's celebrations. Carlos Sanchez, ’07, was acknowledged for his outstanding work and commitment to the Grand Rapids community. Born in Mexico City, Carlos moved to Grand Rapids in 1998 and earned his International Business degree from Davenport. He now serves on boards for the Grand Rapids Community Foundation, Dyer-Ives Foundation, YMCA of Greater Grand Rapids, The Center for Community Leadership, Davenport University Alumni Association and Varnum’s Diversity Committee. Also recognized was Ana Lugo, a graduate student in Davenport’s Nursing program who was born and raised in Lima, Peru, immigrating to the U.S. at the age of 10.

Top: Paul Chávez speaks at the W.A. Lettinga Campus.

Above: Carlos Sanchez, DU alumnus (’07) and member of the Alumni Board
Author Wes Moore speaks at largest academic event ever in Student Center

New York Times bestselling author Wes Moore spoke to a crowd of about 900 students, faculty, staff and members of the community last October in the Student Center of the W.A. Lettinga Campus. The event also was webcast to other DU campuses across the state.

Moore spoke about his book, The Other Wes Moore, which served as both the University’s Common Read (required for FRSM100) and Community Read, with students at Grand Rapids Community College, area high schools and Kent District Library branches also encouraged to read the book.

The Other Wes Moore is about two young men with the same name living in the same city. One is the author, who grew up to be a Rhodes Scholar, decorated combat veteran, White House Fellow and business leader. The other, also from Baltimore, Md., and just a few years older, is serving a life sentence in prison for murder. Moore’s engaging and thought-provoking book encouraged readers to consider the intersections of personal and societal responsibility.

Top right: Author Wes Moore speaking to the crowd.

Top bottom: Students and staff waiting to hear Wes Moore speak.

Ford Motor Company exec, Scott Monty, visits Livonia Campus

In December, the Livonia Campus in conjunction with the Livonia Chamber of Commerce hosted a networking event with more than 80 business leaders as well as DU students, faculty and staff. The featured keynote speaker was Scott Monty, Global, Digital and Multimedia Communications Manager for Ford Motor Company. He captivated the audience by sharing his world-renowned expertise in online social networking and highlighted how this media transformed Ford. He also emphasized how Ford’s social media principles can benefit all organizations.

Forbes ranks Monty as one of the top 10 influencers in social media. He is a strategic advisor on all social media activities across the company, from blogger relations to marketing support, customer service to internal communications. He is an active blogger and podcaster and has been featured in hundreds of media outlets, including NBC, NPR, CNN and The Wall Street Journal, and in dozens of books.
Interacting with State Policymakers

Braving the cold November weather, Davenport Campus Leaders and Deb Bloom, Davenport’s Executive Director of Community and Government Affairs, converged on Michigan’s State Capitol to meet with a dozen State Legislators, two Legislative Chiefs of Staff and an Education Policy Advisor for Governor Snyder’s Administration during one of the busiest session days of the year.

Campus Leaders spoke about DU’s dedicated community partnerships, outstanding academic programs and hard-working students. Additionally, they extended invitations to each legislator to visit their respective campuses and thanked them for their support of the Michigan Tuition Grants Program.

In October, State Senator John Moolenaar came to DU’s Midland Campus to talk about his personal experiences as a volunteer, promoting the benefits of volunteerism, including hands-on, real-life experiences for students while having a positive impact on others.

Also in October, State Senator Roger Kahn met with students at the Saginaw Campus to address critical health care issues that individuals face and how they intersect with public policy. In early November, State Representative and House Speaker Pro Tempore John Walsh addressed Livonia Campus students about opportunities and challenges faced by state legislators and shared examples of how laws in Lansing affect the fields of business, technology and health.

DU does ArtPrize

Capitalizing on the huge crowds who annually enjoy Grand Rapids’ internationally acclaimed ArtPrize competition, Davenport University served as a 2012 ArtPrize venue for eight artists, whose works were displayed in windows at Davenport’s Peter C. Cook Center in downtown Grand Rapids.

An ArtPrize open house was held Saturday, Sept. 29, to provide access to the featured artists for DU audiences. Following a lunch for invited guests, more than 500 visitors toured DU’s downtown location and talked to the artists about their work and inspirations. As part of their academic service learning project, Language Partners, students from DU’s Arts and Culture and English as a Second Language classes, created an informational brochure, greeted invited lunch guests, and introduced the eight featured artists to ArtPrize visitors throughout the afternoon.

Through academic service learning and the Language Partners project, students are able to learn about different cultures, gain global perspective, sharpen communication skills, and move beyond university walls and into the community.

*Above top:* Humanities and International students coordinate and host the 2012 ArtPrize Open House at DU’s Peter C. Cook Center in downtown Grand Rapids.

*Above below:* ArtPrize entries on display.

DU sponsors Grand Rapids Santa Parade

For the second consecutive year, DU sponsored the Art Van Santa Parade that wound its way through a jam-packed downtown Grand Rapids on Saturday, Nov. 17. Thousands of chilly onlookers crowded the streets to catch a glimpse of the floats and parade walkers, including members of DU’s Rugby and Cheer Teams (pictured above with Pounce), plus local celebrities, bands and more. The parade, broadcast live on WOOD TV8, featured more than 100 entries.
Partnership brings EMS training back to Davenport

Once a hotel, the newly renovated 100-year-old building at 1001 S. Division in downtown Grand Rapids houses Great Lakes EMS Academy – the only academy providing EMS training in West Michigan. Founded in 1998 by Steve Huisman, Great Lakes EMS Academy provides emergency medical services (EMS) training for a diverse student population pursuing careers in pre-hospital medicine.

Huisman, a Davenport alumnus (’87), has extensive experience in EMS training and, with encouragement and support from his former DU instructors and peers, opened Great Lakes EMS to fill a need in the West Michigan community. He credits his success to the education he received at Davenport because it provided him not only with the knowledge to be a paramedic, but also with the confidence needed to succeed in that role and to pursue development of the academy.

According to the U.S. Department of Labor and Statistics, growth for EMS jobs is expected to be nearly 20 percent through 2016. This helped lead to a degree partnership that allows Great Lakes EMS students with paramedic certification to transfer credits toward a Bachelor degree program at DU.

“As a Davenport alumnus, I know first-hand how well the institution prepares students for the real world,” said Huisman. “Offering our students additional educational opportunities that complement their paramedic certification is a huge plus.”

Steve Huisman, President of Great Lakes EMS Academy, and Melissa Warner, Director of the Academy, stand with an ambulance and EMS training equipment at the main campus.

Accounting students and alums help prepare taxes

Need help with your taxes this year? The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program (VITA), involving numerous DU students, staff and alumni, is an IRS initiative designed to promote and support free tax preparation service for underserved, low-income populations.

“Many students find the VITA program offers real-world experience that is terrific preparation for a career in accounting,” said Judy Knapp, Accounting Honors Program Manager. “Employers are hiring students with VITA service on their resumes and see it as an extremely valuable experience.”

Last year, 65 DU students and alumni at 11 locations logged more than 6,500 volunteer hours to process more than $5.6 million in tax refunds.

For more information on locations and tax appointments, visit taxhelp.davenport.edu.

Yardsticks Competition

Eight DU students participated in the annual Yardsticks student advertising competition held on Oct. 25 at the City Flats Hotel ballroom in downtown Grand Rapids. The event attracted students from Grand Valley State University, Kendall College of Art and Design, Calvin College and Davenport. This was Davenport’s first time participating in the event, with two teams submitting entries.

The competition challenged students to come up with a concept for a new advertising campaign for Hello West Michigan, a local organization dedicated to helping area businesses recruit top talent to the West Michigan area. From about 50 participants, the Davenport team of Cassondra Peless, Elizabeth Koziej, Kelly Heidmann and Nathan Herrema were among six finalists presenting their work to a panel of advertising professionals and the client, Hello West Michigan. Nathan was given 90 seconds to present the team’s multi-media campaign concept, followed by the panel’s critique of the team’s concept.

While they didn’t move on to the next stage of competition, the students who participated said they benefitted from the feedback on their work as well as from comments directed toward other students’ work.
From around the land shaped like a hand

The Battle Creek Campus teamed up with the American Cancer Society to enroll participants in the ACS’ Cancer Prevention Study-3 (CPS-3) — a study to help researchers better understand the factors that cause cancer, improving prevention and survival rates. There were 57 Community Champions enrolled in the Nov. 1 event — double the goal!

Our Flint Campus was one of five colleges to participate with HandsOn Genesee, a volunteer center for Flint and Genesee County in the “Make A Difference Day” event. This year’s event was designed to write holiday cards to veterans and military personnel. Students, faculty and staff, along with three elementary schools, generated more than 2,200 cards and coloring pages.

Pounce Panther trekked to the Traverse City Campus just in time for the Northwestern Michigan College (NMC) Pinepalooza fall semester kick-off. After a brief advising session with DU student Sarah Fuller, Pounce met hundreds of NMC students and staff.

Frank Roder, Academic Advisor, coordinated the efforts of students, staff and faculty at the Holland Campus to gather donations during the week of Veterans Day. The care packages, including snacks and personal care items not readily available to soldiers, were then mailed to deployed members of the military.

The Kalamazoo Campus hosted its second annual Go Bald for Cancer event, where students, staff members and community members collected donations and then had their heads shaved or cropped in support of those who lose hair due to cancer treatments. This year’s goal was to raise $1,000.

“Health 101 Cares for Kids” sponsored a Toys for Tots drive at the Lansing Campus. Students, staff and faculty dropped off new, unwrapped toys to give to kids who may otherwise have gone without.

Staff, faculty and students at the Livonia Campus, in conjunction with Coalition On Temporary Shelter (COTS), set up a Giving Tree to hang winter supplies on for needy families in the area. The supplies were donated through COTS.
Members of the Student Nursing Association RSO at the Midland Campus held a Warmth for Winter drive during the month of November. The group collected new or gently used coats, boots, hats and mittens to be donated to a local organization that distributes them to those in need.

The Saginaw Campus recognized the retirement of a valued faculty member, Cindy Thompson. With DU since 1999, Cindy was a driving force behind the medical assisting program, internally and externally. Saginaw consistently has very high pass rates on the certified medical assisting exams and it is a badge of honor for Cindy and her tireless efforts.

The Warren Campus adopted three local families and provided them with Thanksgiving food baskets last November. The DU Community brought in food items in order to provide the families with a traditional Thanksgiving feast. They also held a Toys for Tots drive in December and collected more than 60 toys!

**Top:** A Go Bald for Cancer donor gets his head shaved!

**Middle:** The Warren Campus Toys for Tots drive last December.

**Bottom left:** DU students help out in the community by giving back via Angel Tree.

**Bottom upper middle:** Kalamazoo staff and students make holiday cards.

**Bottom lower middle:** Cindy Thompson’s cake celebrating her retirement.

**Bottom right:** As part of Homecoming Week, DU students held various food drives to help out those in need.
An afternoon with retired WWII Col. Ralph Hauenstein

Davenport rugby players had a unique opportunity to spend some time with a West Michigan legend – business and community leader and WWII hero Ralph Hauenstein. The meeting was arranged by Ron Falk, a Davenport alumnus who started the rugby team in 2009.

Hauenstein, who will celebrate his 101st birthday in March, is a successful businessman, community leader, and generous donor to important causes in Grand Rapids, including DU.

Davenport students John Nowak, Keenan Dolan, Dominique Bailey, Erin Hillary and Ryan Hargraves were thrilled with their opportunity to hear firsthand accounts of Colonel Hauenstein’s many experiences in the European Theater of Operations from 1940-1945, which included helping to break the code used by the Axis powers, being among the first Americans to enter liberated Paris, and also being among the first to enter the liberated Dachau concentration camp where nearly 32,000 people had been murdered.

The players also had a chance to see the Legion of Honor medal awarded to Hauenstein earlier this year by the French government. The medal is a tribute bestowed on a select few who did so much for France and Western Europe. Each of the students received a personalized copy of Hauenstein’s 2005 book, *Intelligence was my Line: Inside Eisenhower’s Other Command.*
Women’s Ice Hockey and Rugby teams announced

Two new women's athletic programs will launch in 2013-14, extending the University’s leadership in ice hockey and rugby. These new teams become the 27th and 28th athletic programs the University sponsors.

“Davenport has been a trend setter in adding both varsity and non-varsity programs for the past 10 years,” said Paul Lowden, Director of Athletics. “The addition of women's hockey and women's rugby falls in line with our strategic initiative.”

Since 2002, when Davenport reinstated athletics, 26 athletic programs have been created, including varsity teams competing in the NAIA and non-varsity teams competing in other national associations for ice hockey, lacrosse, rugby, bowling, dance and cheer. DU has won seven national championships combined for its teams in the American Collegiate Hockey Association (ACLA), the Men's Collegiate Lacrosse Association (MCLA), and USA Rugby.

“Men’s Hockey and Men’s Rugby have been two of our most successful athletic programs at Davenport, with a combined six national championships,” said Lowden. “It’s a natural fit for Davenport to add both Women’s Hockey and Women’s Rugby, as these programs will add diversity and enhance our overall campus life experience.”

Like the men's team, Women's Hockey will play its home games and practice at Patterson Ice Center. Home field for the Women's Rugby team will be the DU turf field, located on the W.A. Lettinga Campus.

Midnight Madness proposal led to national exposure

A special event at DU's annual Midnight Madness celebration on the W.A. Lettinga Campus led to some unexpected national exposure for the University and its mascot.

Assistant Men's Basketball Coach Craig Heatherly used the annual kickoff to the basketball season to propose to his girlfriend, Head Dance Coach Linaya Hass, in a very creative way. Posing as Pounce Panther, DU's feline mascot, Heatherly challenged Hass to a dance-off. Feigning injury, Heatherly accepted Hass' hand as she helped him to his knee, at which point he removed the costume's head and asked for her hand in marriage.

The proposal, her response and the resulting melee of players, cheerleaders and students congratulating the newly engaged couple were all captured in a video that went viral on the Internet. The video, found at http://bit.ly/dumadness, appeared on news sites across the web, including New York Daily News, Huffington Post, CBS Sports, Yahoo Sports, London Daily Mail and many more, as well as TV shows like Inside Edition. You can also scan the QR code at right with a reader on your smart phone to view the video.
An invitation to invest in DU

By Peg Luy
Executive Vice President for Advancement

Greetings and Happy New Year! May 2013 be your best year yet! For most of you, I am a new face on the Davenport University scene. I’m excited and honored to have joined the Davenport team this past fall and hope to contribute significantly to the University’s long-term success as its new Executive Vice President for Advancement. I look forward to meeting you and hearing your wonderful DU stories in the months ahead!

I have spent most of my career working in college advancement and can say without any reservations that Davenport’s strategic plan — Vision 2015 — is the boldest vision in higher education today. It’s one of the reasons I sought to join DU! The future we are building will be a model for all of higher education.

Over the next months and years, you will be hearing us talk a lot about how we hope you will choose to support Davenport. Even though I have only been here a few months, there are three key reasons why we believe that the University is a good investment for your philanthropy.

First of all, alumni of DU and its forerunner institutions benefitted from the gifts of earlier generations; we have a wonderful opportunity to pay that generosity forward to current and future DU students. Secondly, DU’s graduates are the professionals our economy needs as it continues to rebuild and strengthen to face global competition. DU prepares students for the eight fastest growing jobs requiring a Bachelor degree, according to CareerBuilder. Lastly, helping DU achieve Vision 2015 is an investment in the future of all alumni because the elevated reputation and renown of Davenport nationwide will increase the value of all degrees granted by the university and its forerunner institutions, regardless of when that degree was received.

So, we invite you to please invest in DU for the students who need your help. Please invest for the benefit of our greater communities. And please invest for the enhanced reputation of the university that we all enjoy. Thank you so much for your consideration!

Again, I look forward to meeting the many alumni and friends of Davenport who are committed to the continued success of this institution and to helping our students “Get Where the World is Going!” Our sincere best wishes to you as 2013 unfolds!

IRA Charitable Rollovers are back!

The American Taxpayer Relief Act of 2012 includes an amendment that makes it possible for eligible persons to make tax-free distributions from their IRA accounts — up to $100,000 — to charitable organizations by Dec. 31, 2013, for the 2013 tax year.

Donor Opportunities for 2013 Tax Year

People aged 70½ and older can take advantage of this opportunity to give up to $100,000 tax-free to charity by doing the following:

• Transferring the money directly from their IRA accounts to charitable organizations.
• Remembering that only traditional, rollover, and Roth IRAs can be the source of such transfers.
• Making these transfers by Dec. 31, 2013 for the 2013 tax year.

Donors who would take required distributions from their IRA accounts during 2013 may want to consider using the charitable rollover in lieu of some or all of their required distributions.

Donors who take advantage of the IRA charitable rollover provision can:

• Reduce assets in their IRA accounts that can be highly taxed at a later time.
• Make meaningful, including larger, outright gifts to their favorite charities.
• See their gifts impact their charities’ mission and results now.
After serving more than 28 years in various roles and making many significant contributions to Davenport University, Dr. Barbara Mieras retired in December.

Barb’s contributions to Davenport have been tremendous. She joined DU in 1984 as Director of Continuing Education at the Kalamazoo Campus. She has since served in many important roles, including President of Davenport College prior to the creation of Davenport University through its merger with Detroit College of Business and Great Lakes College.

She has also served as President of the Davenport University Foundation, Executive Vice President for Advancement and, for the last five years, Senior Vice President for Major Gifts, helping build strong connections with major donors and DU’s alumni base.

In addition to her roles at Davenport, Barb has been active in the West Michigan community. She serves on the boards of Founders Bank and Trust, Metro Health Hospital and Clark Retirement Community Foundation, and previously served on the Grand Rapids Rotary Club and Grand Rapids Economic Club. She is a long-standing member of the Association of Fund Raising Professionals and the West Michigan Planned Giving Group. She has also served on advisory boards for the Michigan State University College of Education and Western Michigan University’s College of Communications.

Many organizations have recognized Barb’s leadership and service. She earned the Crystal Apple Award as an outstanding educator and the Distinguished Alumni Award from MSU’s College of Education, the Distinguished Alumnus Award from Western Michigan University, President of the Year from Alpha Beta Gamma, the Outstanding Educational Leadership Award from the Michigan Business and Professionals Association and, from Davenport, the Tyrus R. Wessell Award, the University’s highest honor recognizing the efforts of remarkable employees.

Barb’s dedication and tireless efforts have impacted so many at DU that she couldn’t say goodbye completely. Barb has graciously agreed to continue to serve as a consultant to Davenport, helping the Advancement team as they continue to enhance and cultivate alumni donor relationships.

Barb plans to remain active in the community and in the lives of her children and grandchildren.

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C. Dexter Rohm, Barb Mieras, and Thomas Reed at the Kalamazoo campus in the mid-1980s
Bottom far left: Barbara Mieras and the late Wally Bronner of Bronner’s Christmas Wonderland
Middle left: Barb Mieras at her Presidential Inauguration with her father, Edward Elsner
Middle right: Donald Maine, former DU President and Chancellor, and Barb Mieras
Far right: Barb Mieras with family members Mark Maire, Colleen Maire and Dawn Mieras
Thanks in part to a generous grant from the Midland Area Community Foundation, the Davenport Midland Campus nursing simulation lab is now equipped with SimMom, a high-fidelity simulation mannequin.

SimMom simulation scenarios provide nursing students the opportunity to practice care on prenatal, labor and post-delivery patients, enabling them to gain hands-on experience pertaining to life-threatening obstetrical situations they may not otherwise witness during their clinical rotations in the hospital setting. Utilizing this technology along with classroom study allows for hands-on learning of obstetrical concepts. The simulation mannequin is essential to the nursing curriculum and transitions perfectly to the care of the simulated newborn and child.

Davenport University is extremely grateful to the Midland Area Community Foundation for their assistance in procuring SimMom. She is instrumental to the instruction the students receive and will enhance their ability to transition from education to practice in the care of the pregnant patient.
Stewart McGrath, Facilities Manager at the Livonia and Warren Campuses, is dedicated to supporting DU because of one thing: gratitude. Instilled with the philosophy that it is better to give than to receive, McGrath understands the importance the scholarship fund holds for students and he wants to make a difference in their lives.

“When I first started at Davenport, I was grateful for the opportunity to be part of a growing institution that offered excellent benefits. One of our best benefits is tuition remission. When asked to donate part of my salary to our scholarship fund, I didn’t hesitate,” states McGrath. “I know that some of our students work two jobs to pay for their education. Some are single parents trying to provide a better life for their families. To me, that is courageous. They are taking responsibility and setting an example for their children.”

McGrath gives not only his money, but also his time by volunteering every year at DU’s Commencement Ceremony. McGrath claims his volunteerism is for selfish reasons. “I take great pride and pleasure in watching our students walk across that stage to receive their diplomas. I not only see a person accomplishing a life goal; I see all of us that helped them get to that point,” says McGrath. “Also, I know some of the students crossing that stage are recipients of our collective donations to the fund. It gives me a lot of satisfaction knowing that, together, the DU Community helped make their road to success a little smoother.”

Thank You! Davenport employees give back through the Davenport Employee Giving Campaign

Stewart McGrath, Facilities Manager at the Livonia and Warren Campuses

:returned text:

Christine Wallace, Dean for Online Education, sparks giving

When the new Dean of Online Education at Davenport announced a challenge to match the first $500 of her team’s giving for student scholarships, nobody expected that challenge to be met so quickly. The online team not only exceeded the challenge by the following month, but they increased their participation from 40% to 80%. Christine’s purpose in challenging her team was to increase their participation in employee giving. An increase in employee participation demonstrates to students, alumni, friends and granting agencies that those closest to the University, its employees, support its Vision and strategic direction.

With as many as 48% of Davenport students receiving their degrees in online programs, Christine recognizes there is great need for those students to have access to scholarship money. Her next goal is to bolster the existing Online Annual Scholarship so that more online students can receive the critical funds that will help them achieve their education and career goals. Many of these students choose an online education because they are full-time working adults with busy and complicated lives. They may be single parents, or have other challenges that prevent them from attending in-seat classes. In many cases, online programs are the preferred way of learning for today’s students. Just like traditional students, there is a need for many of these non-traditional students to find ways to pay for their education. The Online Scholarship Fund will allow students to have an additional opportunity to offset their online education expenses. Christine’s goal is to get many online alumni to add to the money her team has given. “We would ideally like to offer three $1,000 scholarships each year, one for a student in each of the Colleges at DU,” she said.

Donating is an investment in DU students, our future leaders. Please consider giving to the annual scholarship fund today!

Christine Wallace, Dean for Online Education, sparks giving

DU’s online team gives back.
What a pleasure to meet so many DU alumni this past fall! My favorite part of my work is the opportunity to visit with our alumni, learn about their lives and accomplishments, and hear about the impact Davenport has had on them.

Your stories are inspiring! The entrepreneurial spirit so many of you have is powerful and many of you have credited the education you received at DU or one of its predecessor institutions as the motivating force and the academic foundation for your success.

Your stories can motivate, empower and educate others. We’d love to hear them. I invite you to send me an email about your accomplishments and how Davenport prepared you for them. We are beginning to develop a mentoring program for our alumni and our students, and your stories, including successes and trials, help to inform your alumni colleagues and future alumni for their own journeys.

Share what you know and what you’ve learned with one another. We will publish some of those stories in future editions of this magazine. If you have a business you wish to promote, share that too. We’d be happy to inform others about the professional services our own alumni can provide.

Address your email to alumni@davenport.edu and use "DU Review" in the subject line. We’re excited to hear your stories.

You may have noticed our Class Notes section in the back of our magazine as a regular feature. To share with fellow alumni what you’re doing in your profession or your latest personal accomplishments and family additions, send us an email with "Class Notes" in the subject line.

We’re here to serve you. Open up and tell us about yourselves! We’re waiting…

**FYI: Nominate an Alum**

Each year the Alumni Association honors deserving DU alumni for their professional accomplishments, contributions in the community and support of DU’s mission. Do you know someone who should be recognized? We are accepting 2013 nominations! Please visit dualum.com/awards or the alumni office at alumni@davenport.edu.
Nearly 100 alumni and friends gathered to celebrate the success of six deserving alumni on Friday, Nov. 16, in the Robert W. Sneden Center at the W.A. Lettinga Campus. Guests enjoyed live music by the John Shea Trio and a selection of beverages from Carretino Italian Market and Wine — owned by DU alumnus, John Russo, ’69.

This year’s celebration also honored the first ever Alumni Achievement Award recipients from the College of Technology, College of Health Professions and the Donald W. Maine College of Business.

**2012 Distinguished Alumni Award**
*Sheila Bowlds, ’00*

Sheila is a Registered Health Information Administrator. Currently the Corporate Director at Beaumont Health System in Southwest Michigan, she has previously held leadership positions at Detroit Receiving Hospital and Henry Ford Health System. In her current role, Sheila is responsible for all acute care and professional medical coding, health information management services, transcription and clinical documentation improvement for a three-hospital, 1,744-bed healthcare system. Under her leadership, Beaumont was named one of America’s Top 200 Coding Hospitals by Ingenix.

In 2011-12, Sheila served as President of the Michigan Health Information Management Association (MHIMA), a 3,100-member chapter of the 64,000-member American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA). She has served the MHIMA in various capacities since 1999, including acting as AHIMA Coding Roundtable Coordinator for the State of Michigan, Project Manager of the Michigan Coded Data Integrity Panel and, currently, immediate past President. Her efforts earned national awards from the AHIMA in 2006, 2007, 2008, 2010 and 2012. Sheila has volunteered as a member of Davenport’s College of Health Professions Advisory Board. She is a recognized leader in the Health Information Management field who gives back to her profession and community.
Hy Berkowitz Professional Excellence Award
Lori Baker, ’81 (right)

Lori Baker is a CPA and senior partner in the accounting firm Baker and Holtz in Grand Rapids. She has had a remarkable career and is very active as a community volunteer. Lori was recently profiled in the Grand Rapids Business Journal and has been a donor to Davenport University since 1984.

Lori is the Tax Partner at Baker Holtz and devotes the majority of her time to tax planning and consulting. Over the years, she has assisted the owners and employees of numerous businesses in the areas of tax planning and preparation, estate and trust, retirement and financial planning, succession planning, ESOPs, human resources, as well as accounting and general business consulting.

Lori is a graduate of Davenport University with an Associate of Science degree in Business Administration & Accounting with highest honors. She was awarded her certification in public accounting (CPA) in September 1985. She is a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, Michigan Association of Certified Public Accountants, and American Society of Women Accountants (ASWA). She has held various board positions with ASWA, including President.

As an active member of her community, Lori holds board positions with several non-profit groups. She is a current board member and past President of the Western Michigan Estate Planning Council and serves as Vice Chair of the Board of the Kent County Parks Foundation. Lori is President of the Board of Directors of St. Cecilia Music Center and continues to be a member of that organization’s finance committee. She also is a founding member of the West Michigan Chapter of Inforum.

Outstanding Young Alumni Award
Jason P. Madden, ’08

Jason Madden is an outstanding young alumnus and a strong advocate for Davenport University through his work in the Alumni Relations and Athletics offices. He is dedicated to building Davenport’s base of alumni both locally and across the state and nation.

Jason has served as co-chair of the highly successful Davenport Scholarship Golf Classic Committee for three years, serves on the Excellence in Business Gala Planning Committee and also initiated the new athletic fundraising program and the Panther Athletic Fund.

Jason also is an excellent ambassador for Davenport in his community of East Grand Rapids, Mich. He serves as President of the East Grand Rapids Community Foundation, having served as a member of that board for several years. He has been engaged in several projects that advance the quality of life in East Grand Rapids and is a proud resident who advocates for the strengths, educational excellence and community-mindedness of EGR.

Donald W. Maine College of Business Alumni Award
Donna Rae Rendina, ’94

Donna Rae Rendina was nominated for this award by an employee, friend and fellow alumna who believed she should be recognized for her dedication, hard work and perseverance to achieve career success. A graduate of Davenport’s Merrillville Campus in September 1994, with an Associate in Applied Science, Donna was a single mother working three jobs as a student. Even though it was hard at times, she persevered and, with help from her family, was able to successfully complete her educational goals.
Not only did Donna complete her education, but she also built a business from the ground up. In December 2001, Donna began Gram Guardian Associates out of her home. What began with three corporate and ten personal clients has grown to a client base of more than 75 non-profit and corporate clients plus more than 450 personal clients.

Donna won the “Best of the Best” award when previously employed by Bank One, is a volunteer board member for the Thomas Cellini Huntington’s Foundation and provides pro-bono accountant services to a number of non-profit clients. Also, since 1998, Donna has served as a member of the Women’s Police Auxiliary in Merrillville. Donna became a published author in October 2011 with her first children’s book, “The Golden Leaf,” which she originally wrote as part of a trilogy for her granddaughter.

**College of Technology Alumni Award**
*Josh VerHelst, ’11*

The nominator for Josh VerHelst wrote this about him: “About five years ago, Josh’s wife, a preschool coordinator at the time, found out her job had been cut. Josh reassured her that it would be okay, since he was still working. The upper management for the bank at which he worked came in that afternoon and closed down their branch. Now they were both without work, with a son and a daughter on the way. At that point, Josh decided to attend Davenport for a technology degree. Josh was an exemplary student. He worked hard, earning several certifications, all while juggling his classes and shared familial duties, as his wife was a graduate student at Aquinas College at the same time. Right before graduation in 2011, one of his technology instructors needed someone at his work with a special certification. The instructor knew Josh had that certification, asked for his resume and hired him in the networking department of a local bank where he set up their new branch-wide network infrastructure.”

“Soon after, Josh acquired his current position as Lead District IT Specialist for Holland and Saugatuck Public Schools at the Ottawa Area Intermediate School District. He calls it his ‘dream job.’ Josh is currently working on his Master’s degree at DU. Josh never fails to give credit to Davenport for his education and his career and encourages others to attend Davenport.”

**College of Health Professions Alumni Award**
*Steve Huisman, ’87*

Steve is the President and owner of Great Lakes Emergency Medical Services Academy. He received his EMT training through the U.S. Navy and paramedic training through Davenport CSEMS in 1987. Since that time he has worked in the Detroit EMS system and for American Medical Response (AMR) of West Michigan. He has been teaching paramedic classes since 1998. Steve is an active Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS) Instructor and International Trauma Life Support (ITLS) Instructor.

Steve is working to grow the Academy he launched and is making continued improvements in its classrooms, labs and facilities, housed in a historic Grand Rapids building on Division Avenue. Steve has dedicated one of the Academy’s classrooms to his former faculty, having recently entered a partnership with DU that will allow Great Lakes EMS Academy students who have completed the paramedic program and received their certification to transfer their credits toward a Bachelor’s degree program at Davenport University. The partnership stems from the state adopting accreditation requirements by the Committee on Accreditation of Educational Programs for the Emergency Medical Services Professions.
A road to success made by laying down on the job

With 17 locations across the state, Roger Wardell — also known as The Sleep Doctor — is helping Michigan residents get a good night’s rest. Growing up in Waterford, Mich., Roger moved to the West Michigan area for work in the furniture industry when he identified a growing need that furniture companies weren’t filling in the marketplace. In 1995, he and his brother Philip opened their first Sleep Doctor store, focusing on specialty mattresses.

Roger’s expertise lies in the front side of the business, in management, sales and marketing. He earned a Bachelor in Marketing from DU in 2002 and proceeded to obtain his MBA in Strategic Management in 2012. He credits his success to the skills learned through his coursework.

“My classes at DU, especially in my MBA, helped connect the dots with on-the-job learning skills in areas like human resource management, marketing and finance,” stated Wardell. “They made me critically think through all aspects of business and how they work together for a common purpose.”

Wardell chose Davenport for his MBA because of the flexibility of its online programs.

“I’ve always known Davenport was an excellent higher ed institution, and when I decided to head back to school, I needed to find one that catered to non-traditional students,” remarked Wardell. “Growing and managing your own business is tough and I needed to study and complete coursework when it worked with my schedule. Davenport offered that.”

Giving back to the community and helping those in need is an essential part of The Sleep Doctor’s business model. Roger, Phil and their staff regularly donate mattresses to needy families through church and various non-profits. They are also the largest supplier of mattresses to In The Image, a Grand Rapids-based non-profit that links families in need with those who can help.

“Overall, what we do, it’s about the people,” stated Wardell. “Seeing people develop and flourish not only in the workplace, but also in our community, is what matters.”
Davenport University’s relationship with veterans has been a vital one throughout the nearly 150 years of our institution’s history. Davenport was started as the Grand Rapids Business College and Telegraphic Institute in 1866 by a Civil War veteran, Conrad Swensburg. Part of Swensburg’s motivation was to provide opportunities for other veterans trying to carry on their lives after that major national conflict.

Swensburg was born into a military family in Germany in 1835. His family immigrated to Ohio when he was eleven and he volunteered for the 129th Ohio Infantry in response to President Lincoln’s call when war broke out between the States.

The population of Grand Rapids was about seven thousand when Swensburg arrived here just after the war and opened the business school. He owned, managed and taught at the school for twenty-five years, providing, as one writer stated, “a place among the best educational institutions of the West.”

After several other owners, Michael Edward Davenport took over in 1910, ultimately giving the school his name and leading it for a half century. Davenport was at the helm of the institution through both world wars.

In October of 1944, M.E. Davenport and his wife, Mabel, received a telegram containing the worst news possible for any parent. Their only son, nineteen-year-old Warren, was killed in action.

Though he qualified for a deferment, Warren Davenport enlisted in the air force at Fort Sheridan in 1943 and trained as a B-17 tail gunner. After sixteen successful missions (including several over Germany), Warren died in an airplane crash in Italy. Warren Hall, on Davenport’s former Fulton Street campus, was named in his honor. Warren was awarded a Purple Heart posthumously and is buried in Arlington National Cemetery.

M.E. Davenport’s son-in-law, Robert Sneden, also served his country during WWII as an army major in Europe. Sneden married Davenport’s daughter, Margaret, and succeeded his father-in-law as president of our institution in 1959. Throughout his tenure, Sneden campaigned for veterans’ benefits within his own institution and through federal legislation.

Davenport University today is a place where veteran and active military students feel understood and supported. But few of them may realize this environment was nurtured from the very beginning.

Top left: Robert Sneden and Margaret Davenport

Top right: Warren Davenport

Bottom left: Press article about Davenport Institute’s only lady GI

Bottom right: WWII promotional material
Each of our campus communities has a designated Alumni Ambassador who supports DU’s alumni programs and is ready to keep you informed about alumni programs and benefits available in your community. We are seeking Alumni Ambassadors to serve in major cities across the U.S. If you currently reside in a major metropolitan area outside Michigan and would like to serve your DU alumni community, let us know! **Your Alumni Ambassadors are:**

**Battle Creek**

Marybeth Pieri-Smith, ’97 & ’08  
Associate Chair for Allied Health  
269-660-6941  
marybeth.pieri-smith@davenport.edu  
I have earned my Associate Degree in Health Information Management and my MBA in Health Care Administration from Davenport. I work with students at the Holland, Kalamazoo, Battle Creek and Holland Campuses.

**Holland**

Rebecca Hartel, ’12  
Sr. Admissions Rep.  
616-395-4620  
Rhartel1@davenport.edu  
I earned an MBA with a concentration in Strategic Management from Davenport. I enjoy seeing students I’ve met through the admissions process walk across the stage at graduation.

**Kalamazoo**

Jeanette Julian  
Sr. Admissions Rep.  
269-552-3335  
jjulian@davenport.edu  
I earned my Bachelor’s degree from Western Michigan University and will earn my MBA in Strategic Management from Davenport in February 2013. I look forward to soon becoming a DU alum.

**Flint**

Betty Deloach, ’89 & ’03  
Sr. Admissions Rep.  
810-396-3634  
bdeloach@davenport.edu  
I received my BBA in Management and my Master’s degree in Human Resource Management from Davenport University. I have been working at Davenport for 20 years in admissions, with one of those years as an advisor in Warren.

**Lansing**

Wilma Mitchell, ’84 & ’86  
Campus Director  
586-620-4012  
wmitchell@davenport.edu  
I have a Master’s degree in General Administration from Central Michigan University and earned Associate and Bachelor’s degrees from Davenport. I enjoy reaching out to alumni.

**Livonia**

Debra Bales, ’90 & ’04  
Executive Administrative Assistant  
616-554-5683  
dbales@davenport.edu  
I graduated from Davenport University in 1990 and again in 2004 and am currently working on an MBA. I enjoy mentoring DU students.

**W.A. Lettinga**

Debra Bales, ’90 & ’04  
Executive Administrative Assistant  
616-554-5683  
dbales@davenport.edu  
I graduated from Davenport University in 1990 and again in 2004 and am currently working on an MBA. I enjoy mentoring DU students.

**Livonia**

Rhonda Spratling, ’09 & ’12  
High School Admissions Rep.  
734-943-2811  
r spratling@davenport.edu  
I earned my Master’s degree in Strategic Human Resource Management at DU in 2012. I am dedicated to assisting others reach their goals as others assisted me — it is why I serve as an alumni ambassador.
Midland

Melissa Michalski, ’04
Faculty, Nursing
989-794-1947
mmichalski@davenport.edu
I serve as an alumni ambassador because I am proud of my education at Davenport and wish for all alumni to get involved in service to the university. I graduated from DU in 1998 with my LPN certificate and in 1999 with my Associate degree in Nursing. I returned in 2004 and graduated with my BSN.

Shannon Witt, ’08 & ’10
Library Specialist
989-794-1924
switt@davenport.edu
I am currently pursuing my Master’s degree in Strategic Management at DU. I serve as an alumni ambassador so I can give back by getting our alumni involved in events, donating to scholarships or returning to continue their education.

Saginaw

Jennifer Acker, ’08
Administrative Assistant
989-799-7800
jacker5@davenport.edu
I graduated in ’08 with a Bachelor’s in Business Management and am currently working on my MBA in Healthcare Management. I volunteered as an Alumni Ambassador for the networking opportunities.

Kaitlyn Ziemer
Admissions Rep.
989-393-2605
kziemer@davenport.edu
I am planning to start a Master’s degree in Human Resources at DU this fall. I like being an alumni ambassador for networking with our graduates and making them aware of available opportunities.

Traverse City

Alyssa Irani, ’01
Advisor
231-995-1825
airani@davenport.edu
I am a DU alum with an undergraduate degree in Marketing. I truly enjoy working in higher education and have seen first hand the life-changing impact a degree can have on someone.

Shannon Witt, ’08 & ’10
Library Specialist
989-794-1924
switt@davenport.edu
I am currently pursuing my Master’s degree in Strategic Management at DU. I serve as an alumni ambassador so I can give back by getting our alumni involved in events, donating to scholarships or returning to continue their education.

Saginaw

Jennifer Acker, ’08
Administrative Assistant
989-799-7800
jacker5@davenport.edu
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989-393-2605
kziemer@davenport.edu
I am planning to start a Master’s degree in Human Resources at DU this fall. I like being an alumni ambassador for networking with our graduates and making them aware of available opportunities.

Chicago

Ryan Lougheed, ’04
Alumnus
Rtl924@yahoo.com
I graduated from Davenport with a Bachelor’s degree in Management, from Regis University with a Master’s degree in Business Administration and from DePaul University with a Master’s degree in Public Administration. I appreciate my education from Davenport and enjoy connecting with DU alumni in the Chicagoland area.
Professional

Dawn Anderson, ’80 AAS Computer Information Systems, joined Saginaw-based NetSource One as a Sales Assistant. Her focus will be creating quotations, coordinating schedules and processing license renewals.

Katie Frances Arnson, ’98 Management, was promoted to Manager by whole food manufacturer Standard Process Inc. in Palmyra, Wis.

Kathryn Becker, ’10 AAS Computer Information Systems, joined NetSource One in Saginaw as a Sales Assistant. Her focus will be creating quotations, coordinating schedules and processing license renewals.

Michael Biondi, ’72 BS Computer Systems/Data Processing, received his 40 years of service award from Lockheed Martin Corporation in Syracuse, N.Y. During those 40 years, Michael has worked in various management and specialist positions within MIS, IT, Computer Engineering and most recently within Security & Emergency Services as an Information Systems Security Officer/Manager.

Brian Feltes, ’92 BA Business Administration, is currently a Disabled Veterans Outreach Program (DVOP) Specialist with the Office of Veterans Services, Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development. He provides the intensive services necessary to meet the needs of economically and educationally disadvantaged veterans, including disabled and homeless veterans and veterans with other significant barriers to employment.

Melanie Frazier, ’82 BS Management, was appointed to the Academic Committee for the International Trademark Association (INTA). She will be working with the professors committee as a Trademark Practitioner to assist in the development of trademark education programs.

Tina Hamberg, ’98 BBA General Business, was promoted to Manager by whole food manufacturer Standard Process Inc. in Palmyra, Wis.

David Menke, ’76 Transportation & Distribution Management, has owned his own business since 1999 in the transportation industry. He is currently based out of Grand Rapids, Mich. with more than 400 employees company-wide. David credits Davenport in giving him the direction to continue his career in transportation.

Kyle J. Moore, ’05 BBA Finance, earned his MBA in Management from Wayne State University in 2010. He accepted a position with Wells Fargo Bank as an Assistant Vice President in the Commercial Lending Division in Washington, D.C. As of June 2012, Kyle accepted a permanent appointment as Bank Examiner with the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency in Washington, D.C. His area of focus with the agency will be Commercial Credit.

Amanda Ostash, ’12 BBA Marketing, joined Cumulus Media-Saginaw as an Account Executive. Most recently she worked for Ross Medical Center in admissions for their higher education department.

Lyndsie Post, ’11 MBA Health Care Management, joined Davenport University as a Communications Manager. Most recently she worked for Mary Free Bed Rehabilitation Hospital as a Marketing Specialist.

Keep in touch!

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 location you attended) or log on to:

www.davenport.edu/alumclassnotes
Mike Rasnick, ’10 BBA Business Professional Studies, was appointed Business Development Manager for Eaton’s Aeroquip Performance Products in Grand Rapids. He will be responsible for growing Eaton’s fluid conveyance products within the performance market. In addition, he will continue as Motorsports Manager by assisting with the growth of Eaton products through motorsports marketing channels.

Brent Tavis, ’09 BBA Sport Management, is an Event Coordinator at the University of Wisconsin–Green Bay Athletic Department.

Brian Wells, ’93 BBA, was appointed as a licensed Funeral Director of Shaw Funeral Homes of Battle Creek and Bellevue. Prior to funeral service, Brian was involved with business management of manufacturing companies.

Marriage

Amanda Bell, ’08 AAS Health Information Technology, and David Vasquez were married on Aug. 25, 2012.

Josh Boeve, ’10 BBA Marketing, and Lisa Correll, ’11 Human Resources/Management, will marry next fall.


Births

Maria (Vance) Gardner, ’03 BBA Management, announced the birth of her son on June 14, 2012.

Brandi (Lydy) Melkild, ’09 MBA Strategic Management, and her husband, Paul Melkild, are expecting their first little one in May 2013; a future Panther or Spartan, to be determined!

Deaths


Robert Lee (Bob) Green, ’12 ABA Medical Assistant Phlebotomy, passed away on Aug. 26, 2012. Bob was 60.

CORRECTION

A Panther Pride Circle donor, Bonnie Kopp, was excluded from the Annual Giving List in the Fall 2012 edition of DU Review. Our apologies for the oversight.
Friday, May 3
DeVos Place in Grand Rapids

For reservations:
call 616-233-3412, email events@davenport.edu or visit davenport.edu/EIB.

Honoring
Michael J. Jandernoa

Keynote
Former First Lady,
Laura Bush