Honoring Excellence in Business
Annual Event Raises Money for DU Student Scholarships
As you know, for a few years now Davenport has been pursuing what we call Vision 2015, a plan to build upon our strong foundation and propel the University into even higher levels of quality.

I am proud of the amazing progress we have already made against the long-range plan, improving our outcomes in almost every area of operation. We are measuring everything we do because you can't effectively improve what you don't measure.

Our approach to improving student retention has been focused on improving developmental Math and English programs because half of all new DU students need help in one of these areas; succeeding in these courses will help ensure their college career at Davenport is a success.

New practices have included mandatory class attendance, expanded tutoring and supplemental instruction. In just one year, the pass rate for all students in fall and winter sections of developmental Math increased from 58% to 72%, while the pass rate for students in fall and winter sections of introductory English improved from 54% to 83%.

With increased success comes greater retention and, of course, improved graduation rates. The graduation rate we reported to the U.S. Department of Education last year represented an increase of 10 percentage points compared to the previous year. I expect that rate to continue to improve as we expand upon the quality initiatives we have already launched. Student satisfaction has improved four years straight, and last year, graduate satisfaction grew from 88% to 92%.

Through my involvement on the board of the American Council on Education, the nation’s most visible and influential higher education association, I have the great privilege of working with the leaders of top colleges from across the country. Despite growing demands for accountability from nearly every corner, few other institutions of higher education are pursuing an aggressive quality initiative like the one we have launched here at DU.

We receive tremendous support from donors, like those who attended our Excellence in Business Gala in May. Our success is evident when we see so many students walk across the stage at Commencement. Faculty and staff are engaged in the hard work and showing tremendous innovation. We invite your involvement too, because we cannot achieve all the goals we have set without your help. Please consider supporting DU with your gifts, your time and your talents.

Sincerely,
Richard J. Pappas, Ed.D.
President
Annual Excellence in Business Dinner brings money and support to DU students
More than 800 people gathered in the Steelcase Ballroom at DeVos Place in downtown Grand Rapids on May 3, 2013, to honor Michael J. Jandernoa as the 2013 Peter C. Cook Excellence in Business Award recipient and to hear former First Lady Laura Bush speak.

The annual black tie event is Davenport University’s largest annual fundraiser to support student scholarships. The University prides itself on offering the best in academic instruction and leadership to its students. Generous sponsor participation provides scholarships which help students achieve success in the classroom and job field. Almost $2 million has been raised to benefit DU scholarships over the past 16 years.

One of the most beloved and admired American First Ladies, Laura Bush is a champion for key issues in the fields of education, health care and human rights. Mrs. Bush spoke about her eight years living in the White House with her husband, the 43rd President of the United States George W. Bush, sharing how it really did come to feel like a home. She recalled helping organize the first-ever National Book Festival in Washington D.C. and how just a few days later the horrific events of Sept. 11, 2001, gripped our nation.

“Like you, we woke up on that Tuesday morning to a different life,” remarked Mrs. Bush.

She also recalled that in October 2001, President Bush threw out the first pitch of the World Series at Yankee Stadium in New York. Although Mrs. Bush feared for her husband’s safety, she knew he had to get back out there to serve as an inspiration to Americans shaken to their core.

“It’s not the job of just the president, but it’s the job of every American — Republican, Democrat and Independent — to take a stand and make a difference,” declared Mrs. Bush.
Michael J. Jandernoa honored with 2013 Peter C. Cook Excellence in Business Award

Michael J. Jandernoa, former Chairman of the Board and CEO of Perrigo Company, was honored this year with the 2013 Peter C. Cook Excellence in Business Award, established in 1998 to recognize business and community leaders who exemplify the entrepreneurial spirit, success and generosity to community that are hallmarks of the Davenport University mission, vision and values.

“I am truly honored to be a recipient of the Peter C. Cook Excellence in Business Award,” remarked Jandernoa. “The sixteen honorees that have preceded me are all outstanding entrepreneurs, business leaders and community leaders who have made a big difference in our community, especially Peter Cook. He was a special person to our community, and very special to Davenport.”

Jandernoa lauded Davenport’s commitment to quality, citing DU as a key part of “the fabric in our business community, enabling our employees to grow and develop and be more successful in each and every one of their careers.”

In addition to his time at Perrigo, Jandernoa also is the founder of Jandernoa Entrepreneurial Mentoring, co-founder of Bridge Street Capital Partners and a founder and board member of Grand Angels.

Below: Mike Jandernoa, John Kraus, Mary Morrissey and Bill Morrissey

Right: President Pappas with Mike Jandernoa
Thank you to our 2013 premier event sponsors!

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**Top:** Past Honoree and Chancellor Emeritus Don Maine with Past Honoree Ambassador Peter Secchia

**Middle:** Past Honoree, Board of Trustees and Foundation Board Member, Wilbur A. Lettinga

**Bottom:** Past Honoree Steve Van Andel and Past Honoree David Frey
Congratulations Class of 2013!

Page: DU grad, MBA recipient and student speaker, Christopher J. Allen, addresses faculty, family, friends and his fellow graduates.
Inset: Graduates exit the Van Andel Arena through the Panther Tunnel.
April 28 dawned bright and sunny as a sea of red gathered at the Van Andel Arena in downtown Grand Rapids, Mich., for Davenport University’s 147th Commencement Ceremony. More than 2,200 graduates earned their DU degree during the 2012-13 academic year, with 900 joining in the festivities. Friends and families packed the arena to watch the graduates receive their diplomas from the Colleges of Business, Technology and Health Professions.

Spectrum Health CEO, Richard C. Breon, was the featured keynote speaker and recipient of DU’s Honorary Doctorate of Law. Breon praised the graduates for having the discipline, focus and integrity it takes to earn a college diploma and how those are key qualities employers look for in potential employees.

Christopher J. Allen, this year’s student speaker, also had words of wisdom to share with his peers. “Seldom does one travel through life on an even keel. The obstacles that lie before you challenge you as a human being and define you as a person. You have character and DU helped shape it in so many ways. All of us are so blessed to have the faculty at DU work with us and guide us through our challenges,” he said. The highlight of the day for Allen came when his Dad, who lives in England, surprised him with a visit to the U.S. to attend the ceremony and celebrate his son’s graduation.

From Refugee to College Graduate

Nathaniel Chol, a former “Lost Boy of Sudan,” earned his degree in accounting and is continuing his education by pursuing a MBA from Davenport. He is married with four daughters who were very excited to watch their father walk across the stage!

A Family Tradition

Barbara Kubik earned her Bachelor of Business Administration with honors from her husband’s alma mater — 35 years later! Their son, Mark Kubik, is a faculty member at DU. Barbara made the decision to go back to school after being downsized out of a job.
Celebrating student leadership and commitment

Students, staff and faculty from across the state gathered together in the Student Center at the W.A. Lettinga Campus to celebrate the contributions of students and student organizations during the 2012-2013 academic year. Led by the Student Life team and Volunteer Coordinator Elway Pegg, the Student Recognition Awards recognized and honored those who demonstrated high levels of commitment and leadership toward their peers and community.

Extensively reviewed by a University-wide selection committee, more than 100 nominations were submitted for consideration, with top finalists invited to attend the awards banquet. Award categories focused on education, service, diversity and volunteerism, and winners represented each DU campus across the state.

This year’s Student Recognition Award finalists are listed below and on the following page with the winning group or individual in italics.

Educational Program of the Year:
- Health and Wellness Fair (Student Life, Saginaw)
- Go Bald for Gilda’s Club Program (Business Professionals of America, Kalamazoo)

Social Program of the Year:
- Room Raiders (Housing & Residence Life, W.A. Lettinga)
- ’26 Acts’ Program (Student Government, Lansing)

Service Program of the Year:
- Alternative Spring Break (Volunteer Center)
- MLK Day of Service (Student Life, Flint)

Diversity Program of the Year:
- Vagina Monologues (W.A. Lettinga Campus)
- Student Government Induction Ceremony (all campuses)

Registered Student Organization of the Year:
- Paralegals at Lansing (Lansing)
- Health Professions Organization (Livonia)
- Student Government (all campuses)
- Alternative Spring Break (W.A. Lettinga Campus)
- Women in Technology (W.A. Lettinga Campus)
Student Employee of the Year Awards
• Christian VanPortfliet (W.A. Lettinga)
• Desiret Abreu (W.A. Lettinga)
• Michael Croff (W.A. Lettinga)
• Sarah Gombar (W.A. Lettinga)
• Miranda Johnson (Warren)

Student Volunteer of the Year Award
• Kiandra Williams (W.A. Lettinga)
• Matt Halbeisen (Kalamazoo)
• Kathy Turnbull (Midland)

Student Leadership Awards
• Michelle Benson (Lansing)
• Debra Burton (Livonia)
• Corrina Campbell (Warren)
• Bradley Carnduff (Flint)
• Anthony Giallombardo (W.A. Lettinga)
• Caitlin Lambert (Midland)
• Laura Oblinger (Traverse City)
• Crystal Roberts (Holland)
• Ashley Sampier (Saginaw)
• Dontrail Sykes (Battle Creek)
• David P. Williams (Kalamazoo)

Top: Student Employee of the Year Finalists —
Miranda Johnson, Sarah Gombar, Christian VanPortfliet, Michael Croff and Desiret Abreu

Top middle: Student Leadership Award Winners —
David P. Williams, Caitlin Lambert, Anthony Giallombardo and Bradley Carnduff

Bottom middle: Student Leadership Award Winners —
Dontrail Sykes, Corrina Campbell, Crystal Roberts and Michelle Benson

Bottom: Dr. Linda Rinker and the Student Life team pose with members of Student Government
Students earn Heart and Soul Awards for community service

Twelve Davenport University students were awarded the Michigan Campus Compact (MiCC) Award at the 17th annual Outstanding Student Service Awards Celebration held in April at the Kellogg Hotel and Conference Center in East Lansing, Mich.

In recognition of their time, effort and personal commitment to their communities through service, Scott DeGraaf, Nathan Fortier, Janelle Fryling, Ben Henig, Daniel Hume, Leslie Ley, Elizabeth Overbeek, Valerie Starrett, Brett Sutherland, Michel Thomas, Kiandra Williams and Kelli Wyse received the Heart and Soul Award.

MiCC is a coalition of colleges and universities committed to fulfilling the public purpose of higher education. MiCC promotes the education and commitment of Michigan college students to be civically engaged citizens by creating and expanding academic, co-curricular and campus-wide opportunities for community service, service learning and civic engagement. Each year, MiCC awards students one of three awards: the Outstanding Community Impact Award, the Commitment to Service Award and the Heart and Soul Award. This year, more than 450 students from 33 member institutions received awards.

Above: Calvin Beeke and Tyler Eisenberg show off their G-RAPS invention.

DU students win venture capital funding

A pair of Davenport University students have earned $25,000 in venture capital funding to get their new business off to a flying start. Tyler Eisenberg and Calvin Beeke created G-RAPS, a new accessory that helps individuals personalize their eyewear with the logo of a favorite sports team, cause or brand. The product, a patent-pending, flexible, silicone band that wraps around any eyewear frame, is entirely Michigan-made.

Taking their product and business idea to the Start Garden competition, Eisenberg and Beeke first earned $5,000 in funding in October 2012, based on a public vote. In December, the team provided an update on their business plan and earned an additional $20,000 in funding. The duo ultimately has the opportunity to receive up to $500,000 in funding plus guidance from the Start Garden team.

Eisenberg and Beeke hope to create additional Michigan jobs and promote social responsibility through their business. The first G-RAPS they brought to market, for instance, promoted breast cancer awareness.

Created by Rick DeVos, who also founded ArtPrize, Start Garden is a $15,000,000 seed fund that rewards winning business ideas incrementally. Two submissions made at startgarden.com are selected each week to receive $5,000; one is selected by the Start Garden team, the other earns the investment through public voting. The second round of funding is earned after completion of an experiment that demonstrates the idea is desirable, feasible and viable.
Cyber Defense team earns top honors

Davenport University’s College of Technology hosted the 2013 Michigan Collegiate Cyber Defense Competition (CCDC) Qualifier and Assessment March 8 – 9, at the W.A. Lettinga Campus. Seven teams from across the state of Michigan competed including Davenport University, Ferris State University, Baker College-Clinton Township, Baker College-Flint, Baker College-Jackson, Eastern Michigan University and Jackson Community College.

The Collegiate Cyber Defense Competition was open to teams from two- and four-year colleges and universities. Each participating college sent a team of students to compete by building mock network infrastructure and defending it from “hackers” who were industry professionals volunteering to assist. The “hackers” were given the challenge to take each team’s production systems offline and breach their security. While the teams worked hard to fend off “hackers,” the competition judging staff (also industry professionals) requested deployment of network enhancements or services, upgrades, security updates and injected additional challenges to the teams to simulate a real business environment. The teams were scored on their ability to install and maintain network services while defending them from the “hackers.”

The DU team placed first and went on to compete at the Midwest CCDC Regionals held on March 22-23 at Moraine Valley Community College in Palos Hills, Ill.

DECA students place in the Top Ten

In April, six DECA students from the W.A. Lettinga Campus traveled to Anaheim, Calif. to compete against 2,000 college students from across the United States and Canada at the annual DECA International Career and Development Conference. The competitions were rigorous and intense. Two of the six DU students placed in the top ten in their events: Josh Arnson — Website Design and Collin Donnelly — the Sales Manager Meeting.

In addition to the competitive events, the students participated in a variety of leadership and career advancing academies plus networking opportunities with industry professionals.
A business plan is vital to the startup and success of any business, as it lays the groundwork to help entrepreneurs enter the market and gain market share. Entrepreneurs also need to practice presenting their ideas in front of investors in order to effectively secure the startup capital needed.

To practice these skills in the spirit of friendly competition, Davenport University students participated in the 4th annual Business Plan Competition this past March. As part of the West Michigan Colleges and Universities Group’s initiative to sponsor business plan competitions on West Michigan campuses, the Collegiate Entrepreneurs Organization (CEO) facilitated the competition on DU campuses in partnership with other BPA and DECA groups.

With cash prizes totaling $1,750, competition was stiff. Tyler Essenberg won this year’s competition and took home the top prize of $1,000 dollars. His project title was called GREENgrass, an idea to create a lawn fertilizer that slowed the growth of grass and keeps grass greener.

Jamie Barnes took second place and received a $500 prize. Her project title was getHAPPY, an idea for a direct relationship marketing company that creates a positive experience by interacting with getHAPPY employees. getHAPPY works with its clients to optimize relationships with current and future customers.

Eric Schipper took third place and a prize of $250 with a business plan for a company called SteamWerks. This small business would be a graphic design company that provides graphic design solutions and services to small businesses.

Davenport University’s Business Professionals of America (BPA) students (pictured above) once again showcased their excellence at the 47th Annual BPA National Leadership Conference in Orlando, Florida, setting new records for achievement and building on the University’s legacy of BPA success.

Competing against more than 5,000 students from 20 states, the 51-student team from DU’s W.A. Lettinga, Holland and Kalamazoo campuses earned 16 First Place Awards and 113 Top Ten finishes — both all-time BPA records.

Students rock CEO Business Plan Competition

• DU students took home 25% of the First Place Awards presented at the collegiate level.
• The Grand Rapids Financial Analyst Team won their event for the fifth year in a row.
• DU had three multiple First Place winners:
  – Chris Lammers’s Network Design Team plus two individual awards
  – Joshua Salamone with two individual awards
  – Jacob Harig’s Financial Analyst Team, plus one individual award

Winners Jason Sissing, Jacob Hull, Shutuveya Ward and Jake Mantel proudly display their winnings.
Winter sports come out on top

The winter sport season was full of thrills with Davenport University capturing four regular season conference championships in women’s basketball, men’s basketball, women’s bowling and D3 hockey. Women’s basketball also brought home the Wolverine Hoosier Athletic Conference (WHAC) tournament win while D1 hockey made history claiming its first-ever tournament championship in the Great Lakes Collegiate Hockey Conference League (GLCHL). The women’s bowling team completed their sweep by claiming the first ever WHAC tournament crown while the men’s team, which finished third during the regular season, also claimed their first-ever WHAC tournament championship.

The DU cheer team also had a perfect competition season — capped by taking home the National Title at the All-Girl D3 level NCA Collegiate Nationals.

Congrats Coach Clarkson!

Former men’s lacrosse coach and current College of Business faculty member, Bob Clarkson, was inducted into the Corning Painted Post Hall of Fame this past spring. Clarkson, who coached men’s lacrosse as well as bowling from 2008-2012, was one of 21 members inducted into the Hall of Fame for 2013. Clarkson’s coaching highlight at DU came when he led the men’s lacrosse team to the MCLA DII National Championship in the spring of 2011, where they defeated the University of St. Thomas (Minn.) 14-9 to claim their first-ever national title.
DU Panthers take the field

The sun glowed warm in the sky and the atmosphere was filled with the smells of peanuts and freshly roasted hot dogs as the Panther baseball and softball teams prepared for their inaugural games on their brand new fields.

Baseball opened with a doubleheader against crosstown rivals, the Aquinas Saints, while softball squared off against the Northwood Timberwolves. The Saints took the opener 6-1, but the Panthers came back in the second game for a 10-4 win. Similarly, the Lady Panthers clinched their home opener with a 9-6 win against the Timberwolves but fell in the second game with a 17-9 loss that turned out to be a slugfest!

Davenport University Foundation Board Member and donor Joe Buzzitta threw out the first pitch on the new baseball field to kick off the game. An avid baseball lover and former coach, Joe Buzzitta and his family generously funded and dedicated the baseball press box in memory of his father Louis Buzzitta, a 1959 graduate of Davenport.

Left: The Lady Panthers celebrate their home opener win
Top right: Baseball double header against the Aquinas Saints
Middle: DU Foundation Board Member and donor Joe Buzzitta throws out the first pitch
Bottom: The softball team line-up
Global activist movement comes to DU

A committed group of 13 female and male faculty, staff, students and alumni put on the third annual production of The Vagina Monologues as a part of V-Day – a global activist movement to stop violence against women and girls including rape, battery, incest, female genital mutilation and sex slavery.

This year’s three performances were held in the Sneden Center Auditorium at the W.A. Lettinga Campus on Feb. 14, 15 & 16. All three were near sell-outs and the money raised was donated to two important charitable organizations. Ninety percent of the proceeds stayed in Grand Rapids, going to the YWCA for programs supporting women and children who are victims of domestic violence. The remaining 10 percent benefitted the National V-Day Organization where it was combined with proceeds from every other performance of The Vagina Monologues world-wide to support programs surrounding violence against women and children in Haiti.

The Vagina Monologues was written by Eve Ensler after she conducted more than 200 interviews with women from around the globe. The play is composed of the actual words and stories these women shared with Ensler.

Students and staff rally at the State Capitol

Davenport University students and staff from across Michigan spent a day at the State Capitol on March 13 to advocate for Michigan Tuition Grant (MTG) funding in the state’s 2013-14 fiscal year budget. Students met with a number of State Legislators to discuss the importance of MTG funding and other pressing state issues, including jobs, transportation and healthcare.

Senators Dave Hildenbrand (R-Lowell) and Steve Bieda (D-Warren) formally welcomed the DU contingency seated in the Senate Gallery during session. Later, Rep. Jim Stamas, House Majority Floor Leader, met the group on the floor of the House Chambers, an invitation-only opportunity when the House is not in session. The students also received a private tour of the State Capitol Building, including Governor Rick Snyder’s office.

The MTG is a critical piece of funding that helps students who would otherwise take out student loans to pay for college. During the 2011-2012 academic year, 33% of DU students received aid from the State of Michigan and $3 million of that aid came from the MTG. Student scholarships and grants like the Michigan Tuition Grant assist college students with covering tuition costs without going deeper into student loan debt.
Honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

As one of the most diverse institutions of higher education in Michigan, Davenport University always takes time to celebrate and honor civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr. on MLK Day, which was Monday, Jan. 21. Every DU campus had activities or events planned, with students, faculty and staff invited to participate in events held on-campus and in the community.

Livonia and Warren staff and students supported local families by hosting a food drive, collecting and packing more than two tons of food for families in need. Students also participated in the 27th Annual Peace Walk in Southfield and the 26th annual MLK Holiday Celebration hosted by the Interfaith Center at The Royalty House in Warren.

The W. A. Lettinga Campus held a silent march on the blustery day along with a celebration held in the Sneden Center Auditorium. DU students, faculty, staff and community members came together to reflect on Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.’s impact and to hear featured speaker Reverend Tony Campbell, VP of Focused Impact for the Heart of West Michigan United Way.

Others chose more individual ways to recognize the life and work of Dr. King. Midland students Veronica Frawley and Caitlin Lambert, for instance, donated their time and talent and spent the day painting at The Open Door, which operates a soup kitchen and crisis shelter in Midland.

Nearly fifty students representing many DU campuses participated in DU’s first MLK Day Essay Contest. The contest was a part of the many speakers, service projects, and initiatives that celebrated Martin Luther King Jr. Congratulations to all finalists for the contest:

• 1st Place ($1,500): Julia Klida (Midland)
• 2nd Place ($1,000): Benjamin Dean (W.A. Lettinga)
• 3rd Place ($500): Lisa Miller (Warren)
• Honorable Mentions ($250 each): Jaclyn Baker (W.A. Lettinga), Emily Peric (Lansing), Stephanie Rodriguez (W.A. Lettinga) and Erin Smith (W.A. Lettinga)

Successful Career Fair connects students and alumni with job opportunities

The W.A. Lettinga Campus Student Center was swamped with students, alumni and employers looking to connect with each other this past March at the 2013 West Michigan Career Fair. Davenport University’s Career Services brought in nearly 100 employers like Meijer, Flagstar Bank, Metro Health and Spectrum Health. Attended by more than 300 DU students and alumni, the fair helped connect students with employers for potential job interviews and career opportunities.

“For students not graduating yet, this kind of event gives a preview of senior year,” says Michael Croff, a junior at the W.A. Lettinga Campus. “It also is the perfect way to ask about internships. Many of the employers have internships available and those that do not are interested in setting them up through DU Career Services.” Michael found three possible internships for the summer and fall from employers at the Career Fair.

Another student from the Livonia Campus had been unemployed for 13 months and traveled to Grand Rapids in hopes of finding a job at the Career Fair. Career Services assisted her in finding the right employer at the fair and following an interview, she was offered a job. Another student visited Career Services the day before the Career Fair and was coached on updating his resume and how to approach prospective employers at the event. The efforts paid off when he was offered a part-time IT position paying $60 per hour.
Students impacting communities

Student Life’s Alternative Spring Break program sent Davenport University students to Lakeland, Fla. and Biloxi, Miss. to mentor disadvantaged youth and assist with affordable housing issues. The primary purpose of the Alternative Spring Break program is to help students become more aware of their role in the world and show how education and engagement can lift up a community and its citizens.

The group stationed in Biloxi worked with the organization Community Collaborations and visited different schools in the area to provide at-risk students a positive role model and mentor. The Florida group volunteered with Habitat for Humanity to work on a housing site for a family in need. They also volunteered with the local chapter of Habitat ReStore, the Habitat for Humanity store that sells new and gently-used home improvement goods, furniture, appliances and more at a fraction of the retail price.

During each trip, the student site leaders utilized The Active Citizen Continuum, a behavioral model that helps turn community members into active citizens. This model was used to show student participants how to be active citizens through issues education and reflection.

“Having the opportunity to participate in the academic alternative spring break the past two years has been a tremendous opportunity,” declared Jamie Barnes, a Marketing student and participant with the Florida group. “The trips have been a true highlight in my academic career at Davenport. The chance to see course material come alive in the form of community service, exploration and interviews with field experts is something every student should consider.”

Jamie filmed the group’s extraordinary trip and created a short documentary about the experience. It can be viewed by visiting http://bit.ly/asbflorida2013.
Flint
The Flint Campus hosted a College of Health Spotlight event on March 12. The event brought faculty, alumni, employers and current students together to network. Alumni represented the fields of Health Services Administration, Health Information Technology/Management and Medical Case Management.

Holland
On March 14, Holland Interim Campus Director Linda Hood, members of the faculty and staff and Deb Bloom, Executive Director of Government Affairs, organized a legislative panel entitled “Public Service and Public Policy: How It Impacts Your Life and Profession.” More than 50 students, faculty and staff attended to interact with three members of the House of Representatives for the State of Michigan.

Kalamazoo
The Kalamazoo chapter of Business Professionals of America (BPA) held a fundraiser at the Kalamazoo Wings ECHL hockey game. Students sold tickets to the hockey game and raised enough money to cover fees for all 11 chapter members to attend the BPA National Leadership Conference in May.

Lansing
On Jan. 9, four College of Technology students were joined by three students from Lansing Community College’s ePathways program to visit Mamatha Chamarthi, CIO of Consumers Energy in Jackson, Mich. The visit was part of the Lansing Campus’s “Over Easy” series, which seeks to connect technology students with CIOs in a comfortable environment.

W.A. Lettinga
A collaboration of W.A. Lettinga Campus Arts & Culture, English as a Second Language, and Diversity students teamed up during the Winter 2013 semester for a service-learning project to help benefit Gilda’s Club in Grand Rapids. Students sold Laughfest High-Five buttons and collected more than $500 for Gilda’s Club/Children’s Grief Network. Their efforts were part of a larger campaign (which received matching funds from The Wege Foundation) to raise more than $100,000 this year.

Livonia
Staff, faculty and Pounce the Panther assisted over 40 students who attended the annual Grad Fest event at the Livonia Campus in March. Grad Fest events are held at each DU Campus to prepare soon-to-be graduates for the Commencement Ceremony held in Grand Rapids at the Van Andel Arena.
Midland
On Thursdays during the Winter 2013 semester, the Student Nurses Association (SNA) hosted lunch for students on campus between classes. The lunches included pizza, hot dogs, walking tacos and taco salads. It allowed the students to remain on campus between classes, preserving valuable study time. The SNA took on this initiative to provide new food options on campus, with proceeds covering expenses.

Saginaw
About 30 graduates attended Grad Fest at the Saginaw Campus to pick up their caps and gowns and learn what the next steps were for them. Students were able to meet with Financial Aid, Career Services and Admissions about graduate degrees. The Alumni Association provided students with alumni goodies and Pounce helped instill DU pride.

Traverse City
Traverse City Interim Campus Leader Jackie Anderson and Alyssa Irani, Advisor, interviewed MBA student Carol Ann Cook during her last semester at DU for a Career Circle article in the Traverse Bay Family Magazine. The article described Cook’s career in the Coast Guard and her graduate studies at DU. Carol Ann is a Yeoman in the administrative office at Air Station Traverse City and a new graduate from DU’s MBA program.

Warren & Livonia
Students at DU’s Warren and Livonia campuses, along with Winning Futures (a Warren-based high school mentoring program), collected more than 300 books for Read ‘n Give. Jamie Vassel, an AmeriCorps VISTA student worker, coordinated the project to help out a fellow AmeriCorps VISTA member, Candice Perdan. Vassel spends her time at DU and at Winning Futures coordinating volunteer projects and opportunities for students.
A partner in education: Schoolcraft College

Having celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2011, Schoolcraft College is an educational landmark in Livonia, Mich. and a celebrated partner in education with Davenport University. Together, through articulation agreements, Davenport and Schoolcraft aim to increase the intellectual and social opportunities available to students furthering their education and career goals. This is done by allowing students with an Associate degree from Schoolcraft College to transfer credits into a corresponding Bachelor degree program at DU. Two of the busiest programs are within the healthcare industry and focus on Health Information Technology (HIT) and Nursing (BSN/MSN).

Rachel Bowling (’12), RHIA, a Certified Release of Information Specialist at Bactes Imaging Solutions, graduated in 2010 from Schoolcraft College with her Associate degree in Health Information Technology. “I chose HIT because I knew it was a growing field,” said Rachel. “I wanted to get into the healthcare industry but wasn’t interested in becoming a doctor or nurse. This degree offers the best of both worlds.”

After earning her diploma from Schoolcraft, Rachel was able to transfer to DU’s HIT program in order to attain her Bachelor’s degree. “It only took me two years to finish up at Davenport,” stated Rachel. “It was super fast because processes were already in place between the two schools. There was no reason for me not to do it.”

“My favorite part about DU was my student advisor,” she declared. “She was very helpful and right with me the whole time. It was like having my own personal buddy.”

“I would definitely recommend DU to my family and friends. The professors offered real-world experience that was extremely valuable to me,” said Rachel. “They also taught me how to network — what to do and where to go in regards to jobs. I credit my former professor, Wil Limp, for helping me get the job at Bactes.”

Articulation agreements build strong partnerships between educational institutions and create new opportunities for students to pursue degree programs that will offer them more success in their chosen field. DU is proud to partner with other colleges and universities that understand the mutually beneficial relationships articulation agreements bring.

Dr. Rick Pappas spoke at Schoolcraft’s 48th annual Commencement Ceremony on May 4, 2013. At the conclusion of his keynote, Dr. Conway A. Jeffress, President of Schoolcraft College and the Board of Trustees, honored Pappas with an Honorary Associate of Arts and Sciences degree in recognition of his dedication to higher education.

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New Executive Vice President for Enrollment and Student Services

After a thorough national search, Davenport University has hired Dr. Walter J.H. O’Neill as the University’s new Executive Vice President for Enrollment and Student Services. O’Neill previously served as Sr. Associate Vice President for Enrollment Management at Roosevelt University in Chicago, Ill. He began his new role on June 17, 2013.

“We are excited to bring someone of Dr. O’Neill’s caliber onto the Davenport team,” said Dr. Rick Pappas. “His ability to forge partnerships leading to recruitment and retention success made him an attractive candidate. We continue to hold Davenport’s culture of quality and believe Dr. O’Neill will contribute greatly to achievement of the University’s vision and mission.”

With more than two decades of higher education experience, O’Neill’s background includes strategic planning, operations and team leadership. His enrollment experience includes admissions, financial aid, marketing and recruitment. He holds a Doctorate in Educational Leadership and a Master of Arts in Training and Development from Roosevelt University and a Bachelor of Science in Business and Human Services from SUNY/University at Binghamton. O’Neill replaces Dr. Larry Polselli who retired on June 28, 2013.

Vice President for Facilities Management hired

Damon Gonzales, CFM, CFMJ was hired as Vice President for Facilities Management at Davenport University. He is responsible for the leadership and management of all Facility Department personnel, finances and equipment as they relate to DU’s physical operations, including construction and renovation projects. He will also be responsible for the development and implementation of programs and policies related to the construction, maintenance and care of all university physical assets, including buildings and grounds.

Prior to joining DU, Gonzales served as the Real Estate and Facilities Manager at Haworth Inc. in Holland, Mich. He is a member of the International Facilities Management Association and is a Certified Facilities Manager. He earned his Bachelor of Science in Facilities Management from Ferris State University and has completed graduate work toward an MBA at DU.

Marketing and Communications earn industry recognition

The Marketing and Communications Departments were recognized for their outstanding, results-oriented work promoting the University and its academic achievements.

In addition to winning a national “Best of Show” award for the poster series “Davenport helped me believe,” Marketing took home 10 other awards for their top notch work this past year in the 28th Annual Educational Advertising Awards.

Five PRoof Awards from the West Michigan Public Relations Society of America (WMPRSA) recognized remarkable communications tactics and campaigns produced by DU’s Communications team.

Additionally, Robin Luymes, Executive Director of Communications, was honored as Public Relations Professional of the Year by the WMPRSA. This award is bestowed each year on a WMPRSA member who represents the best in PR. With over 20 years’ experience, Robin is a well-known leader in the West Michigan public relations scene.
Celebrating Success

By Peg Luy
Executive Vice President for Advancement

Last month we celebrated the success of business and community leader Michael J. Jandernoa, recipient of the 2013 Peter C. Cook Excellence in Business Award. He exemplifies the visionary leadership, entrepreneurism and service to community that the late Davenport University alumnus Peter C. Cook lived out and that we at DU prize so highly.

At the Excellence in Business Gala, we also heard from former First Lady Laura Bush, who shared a first-hand account of her experiences in the White House alongside her husband, President George W. Bush. She called for all of us to “step up to the mound,” despite personal risk, just as her husband did at Yankee Stadium just weeks after 9/11 shook America to its foundations.

Here at Davenport, we are on a journey of transformation through quality initiatives. Change can be scary because with it comes uncertainty. Scarier still is standing still and failing to grow and thrive. Business and community leaders like Mike Jandernoa certainly understand and embrace this truth, just as Peter Cook did during his lifetime. Likewise, President Bush embraced his role of leadership during a period of great change for this nation.

We are always looking for leaders who will help Davenport continue to make a life-changing impact on our students and their communities for decades to come. At the Gala, we also heard from some of our scholarship recipients. One of the most compelling testimonies was from a young woman who said that while the financial support she receives through a scholarship is vital to her achieving her DU degree, equally important to her is the symbolic gesture that the scholarship makes: someone believes in her and her ability to be successful.

Now is an opportunity for all of us to “step up to the mound” in our own distinctive ways to help future generations of Davenport students be successful. Please consider supporting DU with your time, your talents and your treasures. We are so grateful for all of your past support and look forward to achieving great things together! Let’s help our students “Get Where the World is Going!”
Meet the Advancement Team

Exciting changes have happened with the Advancement Team and we’re proud of the hard working individuals that help make a difference every day at Davenport University by supporting students, academics and athletics.

We welcomed two new members to our team this past winter: Louise Kidd as Executive Director of Major Gifts and Leah Bekins as Director of Annual Giving.

Louise Kidd brings thirty years of experience in administration and management to DU. She has raised significant contributions from individuals, corporations and foundations in her roles, most recently at Millikin University in Decatur, Ill. She was a founding director and president of a state arts advocacy agency in Illinois, a founding member of the Decatur Choral Society and she served on a number of community boards. Louise holds a Bachelor’s degree in Music Education from Illinois Wesleyan University.

Leah Bekins is a Grand Rapids native who attended Aquinas College for her undergraduate degree — triple majoring in Political Science, Spanish and International Studies. After working for a short time as a paralegal, Leah was drawn to the non-profit sector. She moved to Orlando, Fla. and worked as a program manager for children with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Upon returning to Michigan, Leah worked for the University of Michigan in Prospect Development and Analytics and was promoted into the role of Assistant Director of Annual Giving. Leah joined DU as Director of Annual Giving in March.

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Heather Kalafut
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The Buzzitta family legacy at Davenport University began over 50 years ago when Louis V. Buzzitta, tired of working in a factory, enrolled in accounting and finance classes in order to make a better life for himself and his family. After graduating in 1959, Louis became a successful businessman and continued his education by earning a degree in industrial engineering from Michigan State University.

“His degree from Davenport was a turning point for him,” according to his son, Joe Buzzitta. “My father worked two jobs and attended classes at night, all while starting a family. It wasn’t easy at the time, but his DU education allowed him to be successful in his work life.”

Louis chose DU because of its solid reputation, business-oriented classes and the fact it catered to adult students. “My Dad appreciated that the professors were real people working real jobs,” said Dr. James Buzzitta, Joe’s older brother. “They provided more practical teaching methods and understood real life instead of just teaching concepts out of a book.”

Louis went on to found Hughes Management LC, which sons Joe and Jim now operate together.

As a way to support the students DU serves, Louis set up the Louis V. and Catherine Buzzitta endowment scholarships to assist those working like he did to further their education and career goals. Joe Buzzitta continues the family legacy by serving on the Davenport University Foundation Board while his son, Matt, is a senior studying marketing. When approached with the Athletic Complex funding opportunity, it was a perfect fit.

“As a family, we wanted to do something to give back to DU,” said Joe. “We have a history of supporting causes that focus on healthcare, children and higher education. And, when my Dad passed away, he asked that proceeds go to Davenport. The institution was very important to him.”

The family is filled with avid baseball fans. Jim remembers sitting with his grandpa on the front porch listening to Ernie Harwell on the radio when the Tigers played. Joe coached little league for 15 years and his son, Matt, went on to play baseball for DU.

“My Dad even gave me the opportunity to play baseball with the Cubs,” mentioned Joe. “Back in 1994, he sent me to a Fantasy Baseball Camp in Chicago. I can say I hit a single, stole a base, scored a run and turned a double play at Wrigley Field!”

An instrumental supporter from the very beginning, the Buzzitta family feels the Athletic Complex is not only a great thing for the University, but also for the community. As one of very few college-quality ball fields in the Grand Rapids area, it can host high school tournaments, NAIA or NCAA-type tournaments and a host of other community events.

“I am very impressed with how the Athletic Complex turned out,” said Joe. “Just like everything Davenport does, it is built with quality and class. It will serve to be a very strong part of not just the campus and college life, but for the community as well.”
Blustery winter weather couldn’t change Davenport University’s desire to dedicate the new Farmers Insurance Athletic Complex in March. The 23-acre complex, the new home for the Panthers’ baseball, softball and tennis teams, was dedicated March 20 during an official ceremony held inside a tent because of nearly three inches of fresh snow covering the grounds.

With snow falling and temperatures in the 20s, Dr. Rick Pappas stood before more than 180 officials, students and athletes to offer a warm perspective for the new Athletic Complex.

“Spring is officially here,” he said to cheers. “This is a great day no matter what the temperature is.”

The ceremony included remarks from Steve Boshoven, CEO of Farmers Insurance, which donated the 17 acres on which the complex was constructed, and Joe Buzzitta, whose family contributed to the project so that the baseball press box would be dedicated in memory of his father Louis, a 1959 graduate of Davenport College.

Acknowledgements were made of contributions by Creative Dining and Hi-Tec Building Services. Rockford Construction and Integrated Architecture also were recognized for their strong work to complete the complex.

After a few postponements due to weather, the new facility finally saw game action on March 27, when DU’s baseball squad split a double header with crosstown rivals from Aquinas College. The new facility includes eight tennis courts plus the baseball and softball fields with seating for 500 fans. The baseball stadium, which seats 300, has dimensions of 400 feet to center and 330 in the power alleys. The softball field seats 200 with dimensions of 210 to center and 200 to left and right fields. Both have heated dugouts and locker rooms.

“We want to have first-class facilities for all of our athletes and this shows our resolve in that regard,” Pappas said.
Another rock-star student awarded Ford Scholarship

The 2013-14 recipient of the Gerald R. Ford Memorial Scholarship exemplifies the high standards modeled by the 38th President of the U.S., a Grand Rapids native and, briefly, a football coach at Davenport University. Also a Grand Rapidian, Kaitlyn Roelofs graduated from Plymouth Christian High School at the top of her class, with an impressive 3.92 GPA and ACT score of 33.

Well prepared academically to succeed in the university environment, she plans to major in Nursing in DU’s College of Health Professions. She volunteers extensively in the local community and already has participated in two internships—one at St. Mary’s Health Care and another at Spectrum Health.

“I have grown up knowing nearly everyone at my high school, and my graduating class consists of only forty people,” said Kaitlyn. “Being used to this sort of close and personal environment, I knew I wanted to attend a smaller college that was dedicated to students’ success. The campus is beautiful, it’s close to home, and the faculty have real-world experience to share in the classroom. Davenport just seemed like the right place for me!”

The Gerald R. Ford Memorial Scholarship is DU’s most prestigious scholarship, covering the costs of tuition, books, fees, on-campus housing and meal plan, plus one semester of study abroad. Besides academic success, the recipient must demonstrate ideals espoused by Gerald R. Ford, including leadership, civic responsibility, service, ethics and courage of conviction.

GIVING BACK All because of YOU

Thanks to the support of generous alumni and friends, we brought another successful year to a close with our DU Pride: Scholarships for Opportunity spring campaign. More than 230 donors made pledges totaling more than $17,000, which will provide twelve incoming freshmen each with a $1,000 scholarship for the 2013-2014 academic year. We are so proud of this great outpouring of support, but there is still much work to be done.

More than 90 percent of incoming students need financial aid in order to pursue their DU education. Nationwide, student loan debt now outweighs credit card, auto loan and home equity debt balances combined. Scholarships offer students the chance to receive a first class education in the growing fields of business, technology and health without the crippling effects of student loan debt.

Join us in our efforts to increase scholarship support by participating in our DU Pride: Scholarships for Opportunity initiative. The full amount of your gift will be used directly for scholarship support and will make an immediate impact on the ability of DU students to afford and attend college. We have a long way to go to reach our goal of funding 100 scholarships, and we need your help. Please go to davenport.edu/giving to make your gift today or contact Leah Bekins at 616-233-3418 or leah.bekins@davenport.edu.
Perhaps Alumni Relations can help you?

By Catherine G. Rogg
Director of Alumni Relations

Like many others, you may rarely think about Davenport University or any of its predecessor institutions from which you graduated and received your degree. After all, you were free of the academic rigors and ready to launch your career and the rest of your life! You may feel that when you hear from us the message doesn’t apply to you or that we only want your money. Then, “perhaps” strikes.

Perhaps you’re looking for work and don’t know where to begin as it’s been awhile since you were in the job market and so much has changed.

Perhaps you feel trapped in a job where your expertise isn’t valued, and you want to make a change but don’t know how to get started.

Perhaps you need a refresher course in Accounting, Biology or Computer Science Applications to sharpen your skills for that next promotion or a new job.

Perhaps you know a hopeful person with great potential aspiring to obtain a degree but struggling with the overwhelming cost of higher education.

Well, perhaps we can help! Davenport University Alumni Relations staff are here for the sole purpose of serving you, our graduates, with the challenges you face in your life after college.

Did you know that DU has a comprehensive, personal and dynamic career services program that is committed to helping you prepare for, seek and find a position in your field? This is your career resource for a lifetime, whether you are getting your first job, trying to change careers 10 years later, or working toward a promotion. Contact Career Services at www.davenport.edu/career-services and put them to work for you!

Did you know that we offer free refresher courses to you? Any class that you took during your years as a DU student can be retaken at no cost to you. All you need to do is contact an advisor at the campus location nearest to you. Were you an online student? Then contact Online Advising and they will help you.

Did you know that our ongoing fundraising is primarily focused on building our scholarship funds to continue to provide support to our students year after year? We work diligently year-round to raise funds to help make a DU education more accessible to a greater number of students, including those you may know!

We believe you value your education and the support you may have received while you were a DU student. We want to provide you the opportunity to pay forward your positive experience and help others achieve what you already have accomplished with your degree.

Perhaps you have concerns about what your gifts support. How much of your gift goes to support a student, for instance? The answer does not include the word “perhaps.” Simply stated, 100% of your gift goes to support students who need scholarship assistance! We pride ourselves on the fact that no administrative fees are charged against the gifts we receive.

We cared about you as a student, and we care about you today as a graduate. We are a resource for you for a lifetime, and we hope your friendship extends to us as well. Please check out DUalum.com and look for all of the other benefits available to you in the form of discounts and services. Come to one of our networking or professional development programs. Join us during one of our family night activities. Watch for new alumni career interest groups launching in the next few months. Check us out on Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn and YouTube. Send us an email and tell us about your successes at alumni@davenport.edu.

Stay connected!
ALUMNI PROFILE

During an afternoon luncheon at Frederik Meijer Gardens and Sculpture Park, the Grand Rapids Business Journal honored the region’s top 35 businesses owned by women. Michigan’s economy over the past few years has made it extra challenging to own and grow a business, and studies show that women, especially, face far more challenges than male counterparts in the business world.

Five of the women honored are proud graduates of Davenport University. One of the honorees, Barb Meconis, is owner and CEO of Holistic Care Approach, a natural healing center located in northeast Grand Rapids. She earned her degree in Health Care Administration and serves as an adjunct faculty member at Grand Rapids Community College and Ferris State University, teaching classes on holistic wellness and alternative medicine.

“As a registered nurse going back to college for my degree in Health Care Administration, Davenport University was an excellent choice because of the strength of the business curriculum,” said Barb. “As a business owner now for the past 10 years, I often reflect on the discipline of the business courses I took that enable me to write a business plan, understand a balance sheet, a profit loss statement and to run a business with skill sets I never would have had without getting the basics at DU.”

With a Bachelor of Science in Accounting and Business Administration, Janice Vanderbilt is no stranger to the business world. She currently serves as CEO of Vanderbilt CPA Group and volunteers with a number of non-profit organizations, including Make Mine a Million, a national business program designed to connect women entrepreneurs to turn their dreams into a reality.

Ann Vidro, Chief Financial Officer and Co-Owner of Creative Studio Promotions, earned her Bachelor of Accounting degree and continues to be a part of the DU family as a member of the Alumni Board. Ann credits her DU education for teaching her the critical business and personal skills necessary to build a successful business. “The instructors had real-world experience in their fields and were able to share this knowledge along with what we learned from the materials in class,” she said.

DU Grads recognized as Top Women Business Owners

Top Women Business Owners Helen Zeerip, Janice Vanderbilt, Ann Vidro with business partner Menda Wright and Beverly Wall
As CEO of Languages International Inc., **Beverly Wall** is no stranger to the obstacles that come along with being a business owner. Having a degree in Admin Technology, she thrives in helping businesses large and small master the art of communication through translation and interpretation services.

“Davenport University provided me with an integral foundation of business knowledge. With that foundation, I was able to build my career and be a contributing piece of the business community in West Michigan,” said Beverly. “Then, I furthered that path by becoming a woman business owner, responsible for running all facets of a successful business. It has been a pleasure watching Davenport expand and grow over the years, and I will continue to be an active Davenport alum. Panther Pride!”

**Helen Zeerip**, President and Co-Owner of Teddy’s Transport, graduated with dual majors in Business Management and Sales & Marketing. She attributes her success to three very influential professors: Dawn Brinks—Business Law, Bill Lennon—Supervisory Management and David Sellars—Sales.

“They helped to prepare me for the field sales that I do on a daily basis and the position of President of Teddy’s Transport,” declared Helen. “Not only were the teachers/professors very good, I loved having Fridays off to be able to work. That was an added bonus while I was in college and it was a great stepping stone to becoming President.”

This past May, Helen also earned recognition as the Family Owned Business of the Year through the West Coast Chamber of Commerce (Holland/Zeeland).

In addition to these five successful DU grads, a distinguished member from the University’s Foundation Board, **Meg Goebel**, also was honored as a top woman business owner. Meg is the President and Owner of Paul Goebel Group, a leading insurance agency that provides comprehensive insurance solutions. She is a strong advocate for the West Michigan community and helping others grow and succeed. Meg is not only dedicated to DU, but she also serves with Broadway Grand Rapids, YWCA Center for Women, Planned Parenthood Centers of West and Northern Michigan, along with numerous other nonprofits.

### Alumni Board welcomes new members

The Davenport University Alumni Association is proud to announce four new members of its Board of Directors for the 2013-2016 term of office.

**Lori Baker, ’85**

Lori Baker is a CPA and senior partner in the accounting firm Baker and Holtz in Grand Rapids, devoting the majority of her time to tax planning and consulting. Lori graduated from DU with an Associate of Science in Business Administration & Accounting with highest honor. She is a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, Michigan Association of Certified Public Accountants, and American Society of Women Accountants. She has held various board positions with ASWA, including President.

Lori was selected as Davenport’s 2012 Hy Berkowitz Professional Excellence Award recipient.

**Jennifer Wilson, ’02**

Jennifer is a graduate in Business Marketing with highest honors. She is on several committees and boards in the community, highly connected and a consummate networker. Jennifer is the editor of *Women’s Lifestyle Magazine* and owner of Grand Development Associates, LLC, a development consulting business.

Resourceful and adept at implementing high-profile fundraising campaigns, Jennifer manages image-based marketing programs that include creating integrated strategies to develop brand evolution and media endorsement.

**Joel Blanchard, ’07**

Joel was the first DU Panther Men’s Hockey recruit. He served as an Admissions Representative at DU and went on to a business career, eventually earning his MBA in Strategic Management. Currently employed as an analyst for Business Analytics and Advisory Services at PRGX, his focus is process improvement, best practice and implementation of new technologies. Joel is also laying the groundwork for a new property management venture.

**James Czerew, ’07**

James is the founder and owner of TechConnect, a network security consultancy. In addition to his current role in establishing his business, he serves as an adjunct Network Security instructor at DU. Jim was President of the West Michigan Cisco User Group for more than two years and held technology engineer positions at Spectrum Health and Michigan Medical PC. He also served as a technology specialist for the West Michigan Whitecaps among other consultancies.

Jim was selected as a student speaker at the Excellence in Business Dinner Gala and Convocation in 2007 and the Davenport University Scholarship Dinner in 2006.
Tyler promotion to Alumni Relations team creates new Ambassador opportunities

David Tyler, formerly Senior Admissions Representative and Lansing Alumni Ambassador, was recently promoted to Assistant Director of Alumni and Donor Relations. With Davenport University for nearly six years, David was engaged in the progression of the new Lansing Campus facility set to open this summer. He received his MBA in Strategic Management from DU in 2012 and holds a Bachelor’s degree from Michigan State University.

David’s transition created an opportunity for three DU grads to assume some of his former responsibilities as Alumni Ambassadors for Lansing. The three new Alumni Ambassadors are:

Kandy McKeown is excited to become a part of the Alumni Relations team. She holds a Master’s in Psychology along with a Bachelor’s in Family Life Education. She is currently working on completing her dissertation for her PhD in Psychology, all of which aid her as a Graduate and Undergraduate Advisor and Adjunct Faculty member at DU. She is excited to bring more than 15 years of event planning and community engagement to the Lansing campus and is very supportive of all events in Lansing and University-wide.

Kelly Willaford has worked at DU since May 2010 as an Advisor but has been a student for many years as she began her educational journey with DU back in 2001. As a stay-at-home mother of three, she made the tough decision to pursue her educational goals in an online format. In 2007, she graduated with her BBA in Human Resource Management and is scheduled to complete her MBA in Human Resource Management this summer. DU has been her rock for over a decade and she is proud to be an employee and an active member of the Alumni Relations team!

Jon Jakubowski is honored to represent DU’s Lansing Campus and is looking forward to working with the Alumni Relations team. A Senior Admissions Representative, he has worked for DU in multiple capacities for nearly 13 years, serving on many committees and working closely with students. One of Jon’s goals is to work with his Co-Ambassadors to spur growth and engagement in the Mid-Michigan Davenport Alumni Council.

2013-14 DU Young Alumni Council creates new Ambassador opportunities

The Davenport University Alumni Association’s Young Alumni Council (YAC) has been realigned and is currently operating at full speed. The YAC was formed to assist the Alumni Relations Office with programming ideas for young alumni. Originally defined as graduates of the last decade and 40 years old or younger, their charge is to plan and coordinate social and professional networking events as well as community service projects for alumni around the state of Michigan.

The current Council consists of seven members who are passionate and energetic stewards of DU. They are:

- Erik Dane (’07)
- Sara Hop (’09)
- Bill McSween (’07)
- Brandi Melkild (’04)
- Emily Rosenzweig (’10)
- William Snyder (’09)
- Jaime Van Essen (’08)

If you are interested in serving as a member of the Young Alumni Council, or would like to participate in local alumni events in your area, please contact David Tyler of the Alumni Relations Office at (616) 233-3416 or David.Tyler@davenport.edu. For more information on events, visit DUalum.com.
The March 1931 issue of the Detroit Business Institute’s publication, *Success*, included an interview with Bertie Charles Forbes, the founder of Forbes magazine, who directed his advice to graduates during the height of the Great Depression, for whom “it sometimes seems as if the world moves along in a fixed groove and that the opportunities for advancement are few and far between. The fact is that changes are constantly occurring. Curiously, both booms and depressions precipitate an unusual number of readjustments at the top.”

Davenport University, which purchased the Detroit Business Institute in 1954, has been graduating students from multiple campuses throughout the state for nearly 150 years. The collective experiences of those students would certainly corroborate Bertie Forbes’ statement that “changes are constantly occurring.”

With our founding as the Grand Rapids Business College in 1866, a good percentage of our first graduates were Civil War veterans seeking to take the next step in their lives after that personally transforming and history changing event. Since that time, our students have weathered continual transitions and challenges, as has our institution, in its endeavors to stay ahead of those trends on our students’ behalf.

An 1886 promotional piece from our school contained a list of several dozen “lady students” from Grand Rapids and around the state and encouraged them by sharing the story of two former students “who, two years ago were living without a thought of care, on a father’s munificent indulgence, are tod-day (sic) supporting that father who has become poor and bedridden, and doing it well. One is a bookkeeper and the other an amanuensis…."

Viola Jonnson, who was a recent graduate of Davenport Institute, became Michigan’s youngest Register of Deeds in 1930. Not only did she achieve her position during the Depression, but she overcame a childhood illness that left her with serious physical limitations, including the inability to walk until she was nine years old. Described as timid when she came to Davenport Institute, she was able to win a tough political race against a popular candidate.

Willie Thurman graduated from Davenport College in June 1968, just days after his oldest daughter graduated from South High School. He returned to school for a degree in accounting almost twenty-five years after graduating from high school. With seven children to support, it took Thurman three and a half years to work his way through Davenport while holding multiple jobs. He told a reporter that homework often kept him up until 3:30 a.m. His main concern going forward was “whether the doors to a better job are open for a Negro.”

DU’s experience over the decades has reflected the political and social struggles that have tested its graduates. Each year at Commencement we celebrate the stories of hundreds of individuals whose dream it is to improve their own lives and meet the emerging needs of our society, and who chose DU as their vehicle to achieve that dream. As we celebrate some 2,200 graduate stories this year, it is worth remembering the thousands of other stories that have come from all our campuses over nearly 150 years of career-focused higher education at DU and the institutions that are part of our heritage.
Professional

Shaquanda Gordon, ’08 Human Resource Management, was hired as Senior Human Resources Manager for the Human Resources department of Perrigo Co. in Allegan, Mich.

Sherry Harmon, ’03 BBA Management, is the new Office and Accounting Manager/H.R. Coordinator at Gohm Insurance Restoration in Saginaw, Mich.

Cindy Woolner-Hemker, ’08 BBA Accounting, now serves as Vice President and Commercial Lender at Monarch Community Bank in Marshall, Mich.

Tom Hollingsworth, ’10 MBA Business Administration, was promoted to Executive Vice President of John R. Burt Enterprises family of companies in Troy, Mich.

Honors/Awards

Ruth Duquette, ’93 BBA Accounting, made the Dean’s List, the Honor Roll and earned Certificates of Merit in Business Organizations and Property 1 during fall term at the Thomas M. Cooley Law School.

Kristen Finkbeiner, ’12 BAS Human Resource Management, was named Mrs. Michigan Galaxy 2013.

Ben Herrema, ’13 BBS Accounting, won wakeboarding’s largest U.S. contest, the Nautique WWA National Championship.

Ruben Juarez, ’00 BAS Management, has been honored with the Outstanding Advocate for Minority-Owned Business Award by the Michigan West Coast Chamber of Commerce. He is the President of Workforce Employment Specialists.

Engagement/Marriage

Christy Bradfield, ’00 AAS Medical Assistant, and James Toebes were married in May 2013.

Rachael Edewaard, ’13 AAS Medical Assistant, and Doug Schut will marry on September 28, 2013.

Eric Gibbs, ’09 BBS Accounting MBA Accounting, and Heather Bishop were married on May 18, 2013.

Deaths

Robert Ellis Hague, ’54 Accounting, Sales & Marketing, passed away on March 7, 2013. He was fraternity president of Delta Lambda Chapter of Phi Theta Pi and met the love of his life, Betty Messner, while attending DU.

Chad Michael Schappa, ’02 AS Management and ’04 BAS Management, passed away on March 12, 2013 at 34. Chad obtained his Bachelor’s of Science at DU.

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

Transcript request process moves online

In April, Davenport University launched Online Transcript Ordering for students, alumni, staff and faculty. This service allows users to order official transcripts via the web at any time using any major credit card. Ordering transcripts online brings a host of benefits to DU students and grads. Along with 24/7 access, users can track their order online, receive order updates via mobile text alerts and email and, of course, know their transactions are completely secure. Transcript Ordering is provided through the National Student Clearinghouse, a non-profit organization serving the higher education community. Visit www.davenport.edu to learn more.
ALUMNI EVENTS

July 2013

Saturday, July 13
Great Lakes Loons vs. Peoria Chiefs
Lasorda's Landing at the Dow Diamond at 7:00 p.m.

Davenport’s Midland and Saginaw Campuses unite to host this third annual event. Join us for a fun day at the ballpark — your ticket includes private seating, food, soft drinks and post-game fireworks! Register at DUalum.com/Loons.

Monday, July 15
West Michigan DU Alumni
Watermark Business Connection Golf Weave
Watermark Country Club at 12:00 p.m.

This scramble provides a fun, social and golf-oriented day for old and new friends to gather. Held in conjunction with the Watermark Business Connection and Watermark Country Club, a percent of proceeds raised will support our Davenport Entrepreneurial Student Scholarship initiative. For information, email alumni@davenport.edu

Tuesday, July 23
Concert at Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park at 5:30 p.m.

Join us for a picnic on the lawn and an outdoor concert experience at the beautiful Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park. Register at DUalum.com/concert.

Thursday, July 25
West Michigan Whitecaps vs Fort Wayne TinCaps
Fifth Third Ballpark at 7:00 p.m.

Join us for a fun day at the ballpark — your ticket includes private seating, food and soft drinks! Register at DUalum.com/Whitecaps.

Friday, July 26
Lansing Lugnuts baseball game
Cooley Law School Stadium Tailgate Terrace at 7:05 p.m.

Join us for a fun day at the ballpark — your ticket includes private seating, food, soft drinks and post-game fireworks! Register at DUalum.com/Lugnuts.

Saturday, July 27
4th Annual Hockey Alumni Golf Outing,
The Highlands at 12:30 p.m.

Lunch and a 1:00 p.m. shotgun start provide ten years of Panther Hockey alumni, former coaches and faculty a chance to reunite on the course and the 19th hole. Register to play at DUalum.com/hockeygolf.

August 2013

Monday, August 19
27th Annual Davenport Scholarship Golf Classic
Egypt Valley Country Club, 10:30 a.m. registration

Davenport’s signature golf fundraising event fills both courses at Egypt Valley. Join us for lunch, golf, dinner, raffle and a live auction and have a great time. Registration begins at 10:30 a.m., shotgun at noon, dinner and program at 5:30 p.m. You don’t golf? Come to dinner and enjoy delicious food and great company while supporting Davenport student scholarships. Register at davenport.edu/golf.

September 2013

Wednesday, September 11
Watermark Business Connection, 5:00–7:00 p.m.
Identity Theft, Heidi Hilton, ’12

The Davenport University Alumni Association has partnered with Watermark Business Connection to bring our alumni a powerful and dynamic networking opportunity with other business professionals. The events are monthly from 5:00–7:00 p.m. and feature a brief presentation of interest to the group. September’s program will feature a program on Identity Theft.

Friday, September 13
Detroit College of Business Alumni Reunion Golf Outing
Dearborn Hills Golf Course, 11:00 registration

Detroit College of Business and Davenport University alumni, faculty and staff reunite at the Dearborn Hills Golf Course. Registration begins at 11:00 a.m. with a noon shotgun start, a round of golf and dinner. Register at DUalum.com/DCBgolf.

See additional events on the back cover.

For more information or to register for these events, visit DUalum.com/events or contact David Tyler at david.tyler@davenport.edu.
**SAVE THESE DATES!**

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<tr>
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