Welcome Back

Red & Black!

Homecoming 2014
Welcome back, red and black

This issue of DU Review features our 2014 Homecoming as the cover article. Inside these pages, we also recognize all of you who have contributed financially to Davenport University. Both are celebrations of the ongoing support alumni and donors provide to DU, helping us to achieve our mission of assisting students to “Get Where the World Is Going.”

Watching our Men’s and Women’s Rugby squads square off against stiff competition and enjoying the tailgate experience are fun ways to reconnect with Davenport, whether or not alumni actually attended Davenport at the W.A. Lettinga Campus. It might be a different address than where you attended classes, but it’s still the same university, with the same DNA embracing entrepreneurship, achievement, practical experience, real-world career skills and hard work.

Honorees at our annual Alumni Awards, also a featured portion of our Homecoming celebrations, have exemplified these traits in their careers in business, technology and health professions. Their stories, also found in this issue of DU Review, demonstrate the impact DU can make on students’ lives.

For Davenport to continue to make that impact, we rely upon your continued support. Each year we publish the names of those who contribute, and we are excited that this list continues to grow. The needs have grown, too, however, with many students requiring scholarship assistance to move forward with their careers.

To all who attended Homecoming this year, we hope you had a grand time! To all who continue to generously support DU with your gifts, your time and your talent, thank you! As we continue to expand and improve upon the experience offered at the W.A. Lettinga Campus and all our campus locations across Michigan, we take great pride in welcoming back old friends and showing off the great things we’re doing today.

We look forward to saying “Welcome Back” to each of you many times in the years ahead!

Sincerely,

Richard J. Pappas, Ed.D.
President

On the cover: Students, staff and faculty braved a chilly October evening to cheer on DU’s Rugby teams.
Homecoming 2014 welcomed back alumni along with faculty, staff and students to celebrate a week full of exciting activities. This year, Davenport University’s “Welcome Back Red and Black Homecoming” featured an outdoor movie, a chili cook-off, a Zombie Run, the Alumni Awards and the Panther Ambassador Campaign.

To cap off the week, the Women’s Rugby team defeated Calvin College 78-0, and the Men’s Rugby team played an intense game against Arkansas State but fell to the Red Wolves 12-49.

In between the two exciting matches, DU’s Dining Services and Center for Campus Life hosted a complimentary tailgate, complete with a pig roast, for all in attendance.
1. The Davenport Pep Band plays at their first Panther Homecoming. 2. The Women’s Rugby team dominated Calvin College. 3. 2014 Panther Ambassadors Faith Snyder and Tenille Benedict. 4. The Davenport Cheer team performs at halftime. 5. Several DU Panthers watch the Women’s Rugby team.
2014–2015 Academic year opens with Second Annual Convocation

Celebrated annually in full academic regalia, Convocation is the official academic welcome of students to Davenport. The 2014 Convocation for incoming freshmen was held at the W. A. Lettinga Campus in the Student Activity Center. This ceremony, featuring messages from Dr. Rick Pappas and Dr. Linda Rinker, Executive Vice President for Academics and Provost, introduced students to their academic team and prepared them as they begin their academic careers.
Prowlin’ around

Panther Prowl, along with Convocation, helps kick off the academic year and pump up students for life at DU. This year, the Center for Campus Life planned a weekend full of safari-themed activities and events for more than 350 students. Students were placed into “packs” of 12 and led by a pack leader who served as a guide throughout the weekend. Hypnotist Michael C. Anthony performed and brought over 20 students under a humorous trance. Diversity speaker Justin Jones-Fosu energized everyone by appreciating the differences and similarities of others.

Other Panther Prowl events included a drive-in movie, a game of Capture the Flag, a bonfire, and the Panther Challenge obstacle course!
First Occupational Therapy cohort

This fall, the first cohort kicked off the Master of Occupational Therapy degree program with an open house and ribbon cutting. More than 50 students, staff and faculty along with generous donors James and Clarine Lanting gathered in the newly renovated Lanting Meeting Rooms, which now house the Occupational Therapy Lab, to celebrate the momentous event. Even Pounce was on hand to welcome everyone and wish the students luck in their endeavors.

The cohort is made up of students from 22 states, some of them new to West Michigan. They will complete their degree in seven consecutive, full-time semesters.

Employment guarantee ensures success for students

This past fall, Davenport introduced an Employment Guarantee program that will provide additional semesters of education for accounting major graduates who have met all requirements and are unable to find employment in their field of study within six months of graduation.

Launched as a pilot program for the 2014–15 academic year, the guarantee will focus on accounting students with plans to expand it to all degrees in the coming years.

“We are introducing the program for Bachelor of Business Administration — Accounting, Accounting Fraud Investigation and Honors Professional Accountancy students to test our internal capabilities to support this program,” said Shelley Lowe, Executive Director of Career Services. “There are a significant number of services to students associated with the employment guarantee, and we need to track resources needed to support the program as well as the impact it has on students, since this program provides a significant incentive for them to engage in activities that are voluntary.”

The Employment Guarantee is a key component of Davenport’s Vision 2015, which was launched in 2010.

“This program isn’t a gimmick. This is Davenport putting its money where its mouth is,” said Dr. Rick Pappas. “We are confident in our ability to prepare students for in-demand careers, and we’re willing to back that up with a guarantee.”
DU joins mayoral initiative: “To College, Through College”

On September 18, Dr. Rick Pappas joined Grand Rapids City Mayor George Heartwell and six other presidents of higher education institutions to launch Mayor Heartwell’s “To College, Through College” initiative, which is dedicated to the mission of increasing rates of credential and college degree attainment for all persons, particularly first-generation college students, low-income, minority and other historically underrepresented populations.

“We must give our all collectively to ensure equal opportunity for our city residents who want a college degree,” said Mayor Heartwell. “Our city’s economic vitality and future depends on it.”

The “To College, Through College” initiative will be transformative in its approach through innovation and design, creating a holistic community response to support students from diploma to degree.

Dr. Rhae-Ann Booker, Executive Director of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion at Davenport, chairs the initiative — a collaboration of business, higher education, non-profits, the public schools, the City, foundations, Talent 2025 and K-Connect. The work is funded by the Lumina Foundation, a national foundation dedicated to post-secondary success in America.
Battle Creek
The Battle Creek Campus held a Homecoming cook-out on Thursday, Oct. 9. Students and staff enjoyed hot dogs, chips, salad and popcorn — as well as great weather!

Flint
On Oct. 15, the Flint Campus participated in the Amazing Race, a competition among the local colleges and universities. The race tested a team's knowledge of the cultural center and to see how fast the teams could visit all eight locations. At each location, the team members were given clues that had to be answered correctly to move on to the next spot. The DU team placed 17th out of 33 teams.

Holland
The Holland Campus hosted 21 non-profit organizations on Sept. 18 to discuss volunteer opportunities with students and the general public. The organizations were welcomed by Dr. Andre Perry, Founding Dean for the College of Urban Education, who discussed the importance of higher education's role in supporting the efforts of these organizations to make an impact in the community. He was echoed by Molly Latchaw, Owner of Orange Leaf of Holland, who talked about the company's mission to support and partner with companies that are doing great work for the West Michigan area. More than 200 people attended the volunteer fair, including employers, DU & Hope College students along with Holland, Zeeland and Grand Haven-area high school students.

Kalamazoo
The Kalamazoo Campus Library and Student Government held an electronic recycling event Oct. 20–27 in partnership with Comprenew. All household electronics containing a battery, cord or circuit board were accepted. And the data security on all computer hard drives was erased. It was an excellent earth-friendly opportunity for people to properly dispose of obsolete or non-working electronic items.

Lansing
On Oct. 9 the Lansing Campus welcomed the Lansing/Jackson Chapter President for the Institute of Management Accountants (IMA), James Tunney. Tunney spoke to students about management accounting and opportunities in the accounting field. In addition to his leadership role with IMA, Tunney spoke about his role as Assistant Vice President of Accountemps.

Livonia
As the Livonia Campus started the Fall 2014 semester, students, faculty and staff participated in Welcome Week activities. Students had the opportunity to meet with Career Services at an open house to learn about the many features and benefits available. In addition, students received a healthy snack pack that provided healthy living tips and snack items, and students played several trivia games to win a variety of DU merchandise. And the Health Professions Organization and Health Information Technology Organization showcased the benefits in joining each of the Registered Student Organizations (RSOs).
Midland
Student Government at the Midland Campus hosted a spooktacular event, “Costumes for a Cause.” The campus was a primary drop-off site for new and gently used Halloween costumes. This event reached out beyond the campus community and was promoted to Chamber of Commerce members at the October meeting. The costumes collected benefited children in the local community who are in need.

Saginaw
On Aug. 7, the Medical Assisting graduates from the Saginaw Campus gathered for a pinning ceremony and celebration that took place at the campus. New graduates were able to bring close family and friends to join the festivities. Each graduate was pinned by Dean Karen M. Daley and Associate Department Chair/Program Director Rebecca Ventura. After the ceremony, students enjoyed a potluck dinner and cake.

Traverse City
Traverse City’s Organizational Behavior class had a blast this summer completing trust, team-building and leadership work. Instructor Maia Turek worked with students Melissa Barley, Elizabeth Fortner, Heather Fray, Steven Kligman, Erin Lentz, Carl Rocheleau and Travis Sievert.

Warren
Lesley Gale, Associate Department Chair for Management, was honored as a Mentor of the Year at the Winning Futures 20th Anniversary Awards Celebration. Winning Futures is a nonprofit organization offering school-based mentoring programs and workshops for middle school and high school students in Southeast Michigan. Six remarkable individuals were honored with the Mentor of Year recognition for their contributions and positive effect on the lives of students in metro Detroit. In addition to Lesley, Amy Ostrand, Senior Advisor Warren Campus, and Debora Crudele, Regional Internship Manager, also regularly volunteer for Winning Futures.
Dedicated, long-time employee honored with Tyrus R. Wessell Award

Each year, Davenport bestows the university’s highest staff recognition, the Tyrus R. Wessell Award, on faculty or staff members who have demonstrated the university’s values through their positive impact on the lives of Davenport students and employees. Tyrus R. Wessell was a devoted faculty member and administrator who served DU for nearly 70 years. He passed away in 2003 at the age of 90.

This year’s Tyrus R. Wessell Award winner, Janet Maschke, Director of Academic Information Systems, has been employed at Davenport for 24 years and is described as an unsung hero in academic administration.

“Janet serves our students indirectly every day, delivering the data and information staff need to deliver the best possible service,” wrote Maschke’s nominator. “She is always available, quick to respond and goes above and beyond the call of duty.”

Davenport earns third consecutive diversity honor

Davenport University has received the 2014 Higher Education Excellence in Diversity (HEED) Award from INSIGHT Into Diversity magazine, the oldest and largest diversity-focused publication in higher education. This marks the third consecutive year Davenport has been honored with the HEED Award, which recognizes U.S. colleges and universities that demonstrate an outstanding commitment to diversity and inclusion.

“Davenport University’s selection was based on its exemplary diversity and inclusion initiatives, and its ability to embrace a broad definition of diversity at its 11 campuses across Michigan, including gender, race, ethnicity, veterans, people with disabilities, members of the LGBT community and others,” said Rhae-Ann Booker, Executive Director of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion for Davenport University.

DU was featured along with 82 other recipients in INSIGHT Into Diversity’s November 2014 issue.
GIVING BACK

Leaving your mark
By Peg Luy
Executive Vice President for Alumni & Development

A new tradition began within South Hall at the W.A. Lettinga Campus this year. As part of Homecoming celebrations, former Resident Assistants were invited to the campus to leave their painted hand print on a wall in the RA Resource Room, along with their names and the years they served as RA. Fifteen former RAs attended, bonding as they shared their experiences.

A total of 72 students have participated in DU’s current Residence Life program, guiding and enhancing the experience of students living in the residence halls and learning valuable leadership lessons through the experience. We are proud of their service and of their many accomplishments since then.

We invite all of you to also leave your mark on this university. Many of you are alumni who benefitted from this institution’s career-focused education and innovative approaches to help graduates excel in the workplace. Many of you are employers in business, technology and health fields who appreciate the contributions made by DU graduates. We also enjoy the support of donors who simply believe in this institution’s mission and want to help worthy students, who would not otherwise be able to attend DU, get the financial help they need.

You all are leaving your mark on this institution. “Your fingerprints and hand marks can be seen in the facilities where students learn, in the lessons being taught, and in the lives being changed. Thank you for your support and for leaving your mark on Davenport University.”
Farmers Insurance is dedicated to helping students

Founded in 1928, Farmers Insurance Group is one of the country’s largest insurers of vehicles, homes and small businesses. Based on an unwavering commitment to the customers and communities they serve, the Farmers’ commitment has extended into a long and fruitful partnership between the insurance provider and Davenport University.

In February 2012, Farmers Insurance generously donated 17 acres of land to Davenport for the purpose of building the Farmers Insurance Athletic Complex. The 23-acre complex became the new home for the Panthers’ Baseball, Softball and Tennis teams.

Then, this past October, Farmers gifted an additional 45 acres of land to allow the university to expand the existing athletic complex in preparation for the launch of a growing Track & Field team in the upcoming year and the new Football team in 2016. With this second gift, the Farmers Insurance Athletic Complex now encompasses 68 acres just south of Farmers’ corporate offices in Caledonia Township.

Farmers’ generosity also extends to academics. In 2012, Farmers teamed up with Davenport to introduce a new Risk Management and Insurance specialty degree within the Bachelor of Business Administration in Management program. Farmers worked closely with DU to develop the curriculum so it fully prepares students for the rapidly changing and growing insurance industry.

As a complement to this degree, Farmers made a generous commitment to provide $10,000 for the next three years toward the Farmers Insurance Annual Scholarship, which is available to full-time junior or senior students pursuing a degree in the insurance specialty.

“We have had an outstanding relationship with Davenport University for some time,” said Steve Boshoven, President of Farmers Specialty Insurance. “Numerous Farmers’ employees are seeking degrees from Davenport and benefitting from a tuition discount. We also have worked closely with the university to develop a bachelor’s degree with an insurance focus.”

“We are deeply grateful for Farmers’ continued commitment to Davenport students,” said Dr. Rick Pappas. “Expanding the facilities that support our athletic programs and providing academic and scholarship support allows us to provide more opportunities for students to work toward degrees in business, technology, health and urban education. Farmers Insurance has been an outstanding collaborator with DU, and we are proud of our association this industry leader and West Michigan neighbor.”

Dr. Rick Pappas and Steve Boshoven, President of Farmers Specialty Insurance
GIVING BACK

Scholarship opportunities at DU

It is a point of pride at Davenport that we are able to provide an affordable, high-quality education to traditional and non-traditional students alike. Scholarships ensure that a degree is within reach for those aspiring students, regardless of their financial situation.

We are so grateful for the community of supporters that continues to grow each year and the difference they are making in the lives of our students — transforming students’ lives through the gift of a college education. With 216 named scholarships currently being awarded, 27 annual and 189 endowed, we were able to provide $622,705 in financial assistance to DU students during the 2013–2014 academic year. In addition, the Foundation provided $1,175,000 in general, university presidential and Gerald R. Ford presidential scholarships.

Two types of scholarship opportunities are available for funding: Endowed scholarships provide perpetual support for current and future generations of Davenport students. These funds are invested, with a percentage of their earnings allocated annually for financial aid. This allows the fund to provide for current scholarship needs while protecting it for future use. Endowed scholarships at Davenport University require a minimum commitment of $25,000, which may be made as a single contribution or donated over several years. Once an endowed scholarship fund has reached $25,000, it will be invested for one year before being allocated. Even after an endowed fund reaches maturity, continuing to support the fund will maximize its impact, allowing it to provide additional and/or larger student scholarships.

Annual scholarships are awarded in their entirety in one academic year. To establish this type of scholarship, a $500 minimum annual gift and a multi-year commitment are required from the donor. The awarding criteria for all scholarships are established by the donor in conjunction with the Alumni and Development Office. Awarding criteria may include academic achievement, financial need or enrollment at a specific campus, to name a few.

Donors are notified annually of their scholarship’s market value and student recipients.

For more information about establishing a named scholarship or other giving opportunities at Davenport University, please contact Louise Kidd, Executive Director of Major Gifts, at 616-233-3413 or Louise.Kidd@davenport.edu.
A sunshine-filled day welcomed more than 200 golfers to Egypt Valley Country Club in Ada for the 28th Annual Davenport Scholarship Golf Classic on Aug. 18. The event, which raises money in support of Davenport student scholarships and athletics, was a huge success, raising more than $100,000 for the second year in a row in charitable contributions.

We thank everyone who joined us this year along with title sponsor, Integrated Architecture. We couldn’t do it without the generous support of our dedicated donors and sponsors.

If you were unable to participate this year but would still like to make a donation to help student scholarships, please visit davenport.edu/gift.
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1. (L to R): Foundation Board Member Wilbur A. Lettinga and Don Hamelink.
2. (L to R): The Huge Show sports talk host Bill Simonson, The Huge Show intern and DU D1 Hockey Coach Phil Sweeney.
3. (L to R): Maple Hill foursome Steve Strock, Jason King, Dan Strock and Andy Kitchen.
4. (L to R): DU Board of Trustee member Doyle Hayes, David Rodriguez and Floyd Wilson, Jr.

Golf Committee:

Jim Albers, Marcus Bradman, Erik Dane, Linda Den Hartigh, Damon Gonzales,
Bill Lettinga, Paul Lowden, Jason Madden, Judi Perrin, Aaron Sagraves
Davenport University expresses its gratitude to the following individuals and organizations for their gifts to the University during the 2013–2014 fiscal year (July 1, 2013–June 30, 2014). Donors are recognized by giving level as follows:

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Davenport University is honored by the support and commitment of many great partners in the communities we serve. It is because of all of YOU — our alumni, staff, faculty and donors — that we can proceed confidently in our mission of preparing students for successful careers and leadership roles in our communities. On behalf of the students, staff and faculty of Davenport University, thank you for your commitment to this institution and your continued support to help DU students “Get Where the World Is Going!”

Sincerely,
Richard J. Pappas, Ed.D.
President
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“Scholarship support plays a significant part in many young people’s lives, spurring them forward to success. We are all grateful for the help in making everything we’ve ever dreamed of and aspired to do a reality.”

– Caleb Adrianson, ’18 — Gerald R. Ford Memorial Scholarship recipient

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“I am so grateful for this gift. Thank you seems so small – this is changing my life. This gift is so much more than a scholarship. It is a fresh start for myself and my family.”

– Lesley Battees, ’15 – Helen Frays Memorial Scholarship recipient

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The Panther Athletic Fund is dedicated to providing financial support for intercollegiate athletics at Davenport University and helping the Panther student athletes, coaches and athletic staff achieve success on and off the field. For more information, visit davenport.edu/paf.

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The tradition continues at DU

The week of Oct. 6 marked Davenport’s 12th Annual Homecoming Celebration and Tailgate. A series of events throughout the week brought students, alumni and friends back to campus to bond over their shared Davenport history and to cheer on the Panther Rugby teams.

Near the end of the week, more than 175 guests gathered on campus to honor six outstanding graduates at the 2014 Alumni Awards Ceremony. This year’s honorees shared stories of success and failure, and how their DU education helped them overcome life’s obstacles and positioned them for future success.

The finale of the week was the Tailgate and Rugby matches at DU’s Student Center & Turf Field. Alumni and their families from all across Michigan gathered for great food and bonding in the alumni tent. From there, guests enjoyed an evening of rugby as the Lady Panthers took on cross-town rivals, Calvin College, and the Men’s Rugby team took on Arkansas State University under the Friday night lights.

As we build on these campus traditions, I hope that you will join us in the coming years and share your Davenport history.
Alumni honored at annual award ceremony

On a warm evening this past October, the 2014 Alumni Awards Celebration was held in the Robert W. Sneden Center on the W.A. Lettinga Campus. Nearly 200 alumni, faculty, staff, friends and family were in attendance to applaud the six graduates for their outstanding accomplishments. The evening featured the awardees’ triumphs and a chance for each graduate to speak about their experiences since graduation. Chancellor Emeritus Donald W. Maine attended and assisted in presenting the Donald W. Maine College of Business Alumni Achievement Award to Brian Behler, ’03.

The rich and heartfelt stories shared by the awardees were inspiring and motivational. Each also expressed gratitude for the education received at Davenport University.

You may nominate a graduate at any time at DUalum.com/awards
Dr. Yvonne Beth Alles, Department Chair of Allied Health for the College of Health Profession at Davenport University

BBA Health Care Administration, 1999
MBA Health Care Management, 2005

Dr. Alles is most proud of her work for the ambulatory and emergency medicine experiences at Butterworth Ventures, serving under the direction of Dr. John Rupke, President of the National Association for Ambulatory Care. She retired from Spectrum in 2008 to focus on her doctoral studies while teaching full-time at Davenport. Obtaining her doctorate degree in healthcare administration in 2010 opened the door for her to become the Department Chair for Allied Health at DU.

Michael De Jong, Former Director of Information Technology and Chief Information Officer, Bissell Homecare, Inc.
AS in Accounting and Computer Programming
BBA Computer Information Systems, 1988

After graduation, De Jong joined BilMar Foods as a Programmer Analyst, beginning a 20-year career with Sara Lee, where he rose to be the CIO. He continued in challenging roles such as Vice President of North American Infrastructure, Business Liaison for IT and Vice President of Commercial Systems. After concluding his journey with Sara Lee, De Jong moved back to Michigan to join Bissell Homecare as CIO and Director of IT. He is known for his compassionate leadership, excellent communication and mentoring capabilities.
2014 Alumni Award attendees celebrate their peers’ achievements and successes.
Providing opportunities for athletes with disabilities

Each May, more than 100 athletes from across the nation descend on Michigan State University to compete in more than 25 events at the Michigan Victory Games. In its 39th year, the Michigan Victory Games offer a chance for athletes with physical disabilities and over the age of seven to compete in adaptive sports, with high school athletes given a chance to earn a varsity letter.

Mary Ann Weaver, President of the Michigan Disability Sports Alliance, which hosts the event, has a son, Matthew, who is a star athlete at the competition and a Davenport University graduate.

“Matthew first got involved in the Michigan Victory Games 16 years ago after attending an adaptive sports expo put on by the Grand Rapids Eagles,” said Mary Ann. “It was life-changing for him, as it is for many athletes and their families. It gives these athletes a chance to participate in sports, and it instills pride and an independent spirit from being a part of a team.”

Matthew graduated from DU in April 2013 and almost immediately found a job with IBM as a Computer Programmer.

“Davenport was the best place Matthew could have attended college,” explained Mary Ann. “The small class size and the support and personal attention from professors really helped him excel in his classes. And, thanks to help from the housing office, Matthew lived on campus, which allowed him the freedom he needed and the peace of mind his father and I needed.”

As President of the Michigan Disability Sports Alliance, Mary Ann is dedicated to improving the organization, increasing its size and, hopefully, expanding to a second annual event.

“The Michigan Victory Games and the Michigan Disability Sports Alliance want to give potential athletes the opportunity to compete if they want to,” said Mary Ann. “We’re focused on spreading awareness, specifically to athletes, and gathering volunteers and sponsors to help out with the event itself.”

If you’re interested in volunteer or sponsorship opportunities with the Michigan Victory Games, please check out MichiganVictoryGames.org or contact Stella Husch, Games Director, at (248) 922-1236.
EXPLORING OUR PAST

In January 2016, Davenport University will celebrate its 150th anniversary. To commemorate this milestone, a new Davenport history book is in development. This is an excerpt.

Shore-to-shore: Davenport’s expansion

When Davenport Institute first embarked on an ambitious growth program beginning in 1951, a college with multiple campuses was rare. By expanding into cities across lower Michigan, Davenport anticipated by many years a pattern that would later become common in higher education.

Davenport Schools, Incorporated: 1951–1977

From 1951 to 1962, Davenport purchased business schools in Lansing, Kalamazoo, Bay City and Saginaw, which formed a non-profit educational franchise known as Davenport Schools, Incorporated. A fifth campus, in Dearborn, was operated as a separate for-profit entity. During the 1970s, the affiliates in Lansing, Kalamazoo and Bay City were purchased by their respective managers to continue on their own as independent proprietary institutions.


During this remarkable phase of expansion, Davenport became the largest private independent college in the state. Davenport’s network of campuses and classroom sites extended from the Straits of Mackinac south into Indiana, and from the Lake Michigan shoreline to the Thumb area.

The Lansing, Kalamazoo and Dearborn sites merged with Davenport College in Grand Rapids. Great Lakes Junior College (formerly Saginaw Business Institute) was also acquired, bringing regional coverage in Michigan’s Thumb. New markets were penetrated in Holland, Battle Creek and Traverse City. Career Centers specializing in certificate programs were established in Indiana and Grand Rapids. By the end of the 1990s, Davenport operated more than 30 sites, with a combined enrollment of almost 15,000 students.

Redefining Growth in the 21st Century: 2000–Present

Where the previous 50 years had been characterized by proliferation of sites, the new millennium emphasized “rightsizing” and optimum productivity. Global competition, emerging international markets and digital transformation were changing the world. Davenport’s own major transformation—from College to University—required unification of its many components.

The model that Davenport had initiated so successfully was now widely emulated by other major Michigan universities, which had established competing locations of their own. Even more influential was the “commuter to computer” trend—the migration of students from classrooms to online learning. Leading this trend with a well-established online program of its own, Davenport experienced a huge pattern shift. From 1998 to 2008, the number of students taking courses online soared from 4% to nearly 60%. Many were pursuing their entire degrees online, which greatly diminished the need for in-seat classrooms.

The University responded by concentrating its commitment in Michigan’s major cities—improving or relocating existing campuses, and reinforcing its educational presence in the communities that have formed Davenport’s statewide presence for more than 60 years.
CLASS NOTES

Professional

Nannette Ainsworth, '97 AS Business Management, has been promoted to Associate Director of Integration at Perrigo Co. PLC.

Jordan Bandstra, '11 BBA and '14 MBA Sport Management and Marketing, was recently hired as Coopersville Public School's Athletic Supervisor to oversee the district's high school athletic programs.

Matthew De Vries, '13 BBA Accounting Information Management, is now an Accountant at Bronson Healthcare Group managing the books for Bronson Lakeview Hospital, Bronson Lifestyles Improvement and Research Center (Bronson Athletic Club), and Bronson Staffing Services.

Dr. Paula Crawford-Harris, '11 MBA Health Administration, joined the staff at Bon Secours Airline Boulevard Medical Associates in Portsmouth, Virginia.

Pat Hatch, '84 EMT Paramedic, is celebrating his 30th anniversary as a field medic with Life EMS Ambulance. During his time, he has delivered 14 babies, saved countless lives and is affectionately called “Pappa” among his colleagues.

Dionne Richardson, '09 Medical Case Management, started her own company called TBI Care-N-Case Management working with clients who suffer from traumatic brain injury.

Algeria Morris-Sowah, '06 BBA Business, is now an Admissions Representative at Davenport University Midland.

Mark Vroman, '12 MBA Strategic Management, was recently promoted to Battalion Chief of the Meridian Township Fire Department near Lansing and is now a Ph.D. candidate at Indiana Tech after finishing two post-grad certificates and an MBA from DU.

Tina Waddell, '14 BBA Accounting Information Management, was recently hired as the new Deputy Treasurer for the City of Grandville, Michigan.

Honors/Awards

Joshua Fuhr, '12 BBA Management, owns the company Auditrax, which has been named to the 2014 Empact Showcase by Empact, an organization that celebrates the impact and diversity of young entrepreneurs.

Helen Zeerip, '87 AS Management/Sales & Marketing, was honored with the 2014 Lakeshore ATHENA Award for her work with the community and in the lives of other women.

Deaths

Thomas Blankenship, '96 BBA, passed away on Aug. 11, 2014.


Tracy Kelsey (Sirrine), '94 Practical Nursing Certificate, passed away on Sept. 23, 2014.


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:
davenport.edu/classnotes
Save the dates!

GR Drive Alumni Event  
February 27, 2015  
Reserve your seat for the inaugural season action as the GR Drive take on the Delaware 87’ers.  
Event Info: davenport.edu/alumni.

Alumni Night at the Joe!  
March 6, 2015  
Join fellow alumni and catch the action as the Detroit Red Wings take on the Calgary Flames.  
Event Info: davenport.edu/alumni.

Scholarship Reception  
April 16, 2015  
5:30 p.m.  
Scholarship donors, student recipients and their families will gather for a strolling dinner and program celebrating scholarship support at Davenport.

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