Transforming Urban Education Through Community Partnerships
A lasting impact on urban school districts

Earlier this year we welcomed Michigan legislators to the W.A. Lettinga Campus for a special Joint Senate and House Committee Hearing on Davenport University’s proposed College of Urban Education, which we hope to launch later this year following approval from the Higher Learning Commission.

Dr. Andre Perry, Founding Dean of the College of Urban Education, joined me to share this University’s vision for radically changing the way teachers and education leaders are prepared for service in urban school districts. Dr. Perry is a nationally renowned education reformer who has been featured on numerous national talk shows to share his expertise on the issues we face in urban school districts in America.

The Joint Senate and House Committee Hearing, held in the Wilbur and Sharon Lettinga Auditorium, featured 13 Michigan legislators, including Senator T onya Schuitmaker, Chair of the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Higher Education, and Rep. Al Pscholka, Chair of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Higher Education. It was exciting to share our plans with such a receptive audience and to receive their feedback and questions.

Davenport has a long history of preparing students for in-demand careers, and our newest College will build upon that tradition, helping to prepare teachers and education leaders for the many challenges they face in urban school districts. While there are many teacher colleges today, few provide the experiential learning DU’s programs will offer. DU students will assist in classrooms and gain practical urban district experience right from the start. DU classes and faculty will be imbedded within the urban school setting, starting with Innovation Central High School in Grand Rapids. Students will receive the tools and training to collect and analyze data that will lead to improvements in curriculum development and student outcomes.

An outstanding national advisory board has been formed with the support of grant funding from The Steelcase Foundation. This board will help Dr. Perry as he develops the curriculum, obtains the necessary approvals and hires faculty to launch the Master of Urban Education degree program. Their collective wisdom is critical as we prepare to launch this newest venture, as the academic careers of children in urban school districts are at stake.

This is a huge responsibility that we do not take lightly. We are grateful for the collaboration of Grand Rapids Public Schools (GRPS) and its superintendent, Teresa Weatherall Neal. To be successful, this new college will need the hands-on opportunities available in GRPS schools. As our methods prove successful in Grand Rapids, we hope to expand them to other urban school districts, helping to positively impact the lives of students across the state of Michigan for many years to come.

We invite you to join us in our mission by supporting Davenport’s College of Urban Education with your time, efforts and financial contributions. These gifts will make a lasting impact for generations to come.

Sincerely,

Richard J. Pappas, Ed.D.
President
State legislators gather at DU in the name of urban education

To formally introduce DU’s new College of Urban Education, a Joint Senate and House Committee Hearing of the Michigan State Legislature was hosted at the W.A Lettinga Campus on Jan. 9, 2014.

Thirteen legislators representing the Senate and House Appropriations Sub-Committees on Higher Education and the Senate and House Education Standing Committees participated in the unique event and intently listened to Dr. Rick Pappas and Dr. Andre Perry give testimony about the University’s plans to transform how teachers are prepared for service in urban K–12 school districts.

A $200,000 grant DU received from the Steelcase Foundation was used to develop a national advisory committee that is helping support the development of a graduate program in collaboration with Grand Rapids Public Schools (GRPS). The program will be clinically-based, allowing students to learn and practice on-site at partner schools, beginning with Innovation Central High School.

College of Urban Education National Advisory Committee

- Sarah Almy, Director of Teacher Quality, Education Trust
- Kenneth L. Campbell, President, Black Alliance for Educational Options
- Jonas Chartock, Ed.D., CEO, Leading Educators
- John W. Covington, Ed. D., Chancellor, Michigan Education Achievement Authority
- Robert (Bob) Croninger, Ph.D., Associate Professor, University of Maryland College Park
- Tomas Del Prete, Ph.D., Director, Adam Institute for Urban Teaching and School Practice, Clark University
- Christopher Emdin, Ph.D., Associate Professor in the Department of Mathematics, Science and Technology at Teachers College, Columbia University
- Rachel Godsil, J.D., Eleanor Bontecou Professor of Law at Seton Hall Law School
- Heather Harding, Ph.D., Executive Director of the Education Consortium for Research and Evaluation (EdCORE) at George Washington University
- Carrie Hill, Senior Designer, Wolverine World Wide
- Marvin Hoffman, Ph.D., Associate Director, University of Chicago Urban Teacher Education Program; Founding Director, UChicago Charter School North Kenwood/Oakland Charter Campus
- Sheryl Huggins Salomon, Senior Editor-At-Large, The Root
- Tim King, Founder and CEO, Urban Prep Academies
- Kathi Littmann, Ed.D., Senior Program Officer, College Ready – Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation
- Marcus C. Robinson, Chancellor & Chief Executive Officer, EdPower
- Marvin Sapp, Pastor, D.Div., Lighthouse Full Life Center Church; Founder, Ellington Academy of Arts and Technology
- Janelle Scott Perry, Ph.D., Assistant Professor at the University of California, Berkeley in the Graduate School of Education and African American Studies Department
- Kenneth A. Strike, Ph.D., Professor Emeritus, Cornell University
- Gina Warner, Executive Director, National Afterschool Association
- Teresa Weatherall Neal, Superintendent, Grand Rapids Public Schools
“Tying” local youth to mentors

On a cold, snowy day last November, Dr. Andre Perry, Founding Dean of DU’s College of Urban Education, introduced an innovative Tie-Tying Ceremony to a group of Grand Rapids young men.

In partnership with Grand Rapids Public Schools and the Head-n-Sole Barbershop, the Tie-Tying Ceremony connected the high school students with their mentors who encouraged them to consider professions that require wearing a tie.

Twenty students, ages 16 to 18 and most from single-parent homes, were paired with adult mentors including area clothiers, business owners, doctors, lawyers and community leaders. Two of the mentors included DU basketball players Thomas Drew and De’Armond Davis.

Each mentor presented his student with a tie and then showed that student how to tie a distinguishing knot. The mentor also treated the student mentee to a shoe shine and a haircut. The intent of the ceremony was to introduce young urban males to social networks and positive role models who will increase their likelihood of attending and completing college and becoming leaders in their communities. The mentors have committed to staying connected with their paired students through high school graduation.

Dr. Perry initiated the Tie-Tying Ceremony in New Orleans in 2010 in celebration of his 40th birthday. The original event was documented in an award-winning movie called Close Ties: Tying on a New Tradition. Dr. Perry plans to make the ritual an annual event in Grand Rapids. He can be reached via email at andre.perry@davenport.edu or via Twitter @andreperryedu.
Occupational Therapy program comes to DU

The new Master of Science in Occupational Therapy program earned Candidacy Status from the Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education and is now in the process of enrolling its first class of students for September 2014. Housed in newly constructed labs on the lower level of the DeVos and Van Andel Academic Building of the W.A. Lettinga Campus, the program is headed by its Founding Chair, Christy L.A. Nelson, Ph.D., OTR/L, FAOTA.

“The OT program will provide students with real-world professional experience through participation in clinical and practicum experiences,” says Nelson. “We believe the OT program fits in well with DU’s mission of preparing graduates for successful careers since the field of occupational therapy is consistently ranked as one of the top employable and recession-proof jobs nationwide.”

In cooperation with DU, students at Kent Intermediate School District (KISD) repaired and altered a small pick-up truck found at Weller Auto into a training car for students to use when practicing how to help patients regain driving skills post-injury. The adapted vehicle cab will also help students learn how to properly adjust a vehicle for the best fit and safety of the patient.

Health Services Administration program earns National Accreditation

The Association of University Programs in Health Administration (AUPHA) has honored DU’s Health Services Administration (HSA) program with national accreditation. DU is one of only two universities in the United States to earn the certification this year and becomes only the third Michigan undergraduate institution to receive it.

The HSA program prepares students for management positions in various healthcare settings. It was awarded full three-year initial certification, the maximum length of time awarded for a first-time request for an undergraduate program.

The accreditation portrays DU’s commitment to providing its students with the highest-quality education possible. Only 53 universities nationwide have received AUPHA certification, placing DU in good company.
Health Professions Dean awarded “Book of the Year” by American Journal of Nursing

Dr. Karen Daley, Dean of DU’s College of Health Professions, co-wrote Simulation Scenarios for Nursing Educators: Making It Real, 2nd edition, which earned 2013 Book of the Year Award recognition from the American Journal of Nursing, one of the oldest and most prestigious nursing journals in the world.

The book, published by Springer Publishing Company, discusses the use of simulation technology in the healthcare setting. The book provides simulation scenarios with outstanding structure and consistency and addresses many of the challenges faced in nursing education today.

Expertise in simulation education is rare. Dr. Daley’s leadership has helped Davenport become a leader in using simulation technology in education, with four state-of-the-art simulation labs at campuses across the state. DU Health Professions students use the labs in many of their courses to ensure their skills and knowledge are sufficient before entering into fieldwork with patients.

DU’s industry expertise has been recognized by the community, with numerous requests for training by community partners. A prime example is Metro Health’s use of Davenport’s simulation labs to train obstetrics interns and residents on difficult and challenging deliveries.

New agreement opens doors for Flint-area EMS students

In December, leaders from Hurley Medical Center, STAT EMS and Davenport University arrived at DU’s Flint Campus with one goal in mind — to formalize a partnership that will expand educational opportunities for STAT EMS students. The partnership, formally called an articulation agreement, allows STAT EMS students who have completed the paramedic program and received their certification to transfer those credits toward a bachelor degree program at DU. A similar agreement is in place with Grand Rapids-based Great Lakes EMS.

The partnerships are a result of the State of Michigan adopting National Education Standards based on the requirement of accreditation by the Committee on Accreditation of Educational Programs for the Emergency Medical Services Profession (CoAEMSP). All paramedic EMS training programs in Michigan are now required to have CoAEMSP accreditation, which allows Davenport to accept these credits toward its health degrees, including nursing programs.

Because of these partnerships, students who are certified paramedics will have the opportunity to practice their profession while further enhancing their knowledge and advancing their careers with Davenport degrees.
New Lansing Executive Campus Director appointed

Susan Porrett joined DU as the new Executive Campus Director for Lansing. Susan joins the University from Baker College, where she most recently served as Dean of Business Administration for Baker College in Port Huron and an Adjunct Instructor for Baker’s online programs.

Susan has extensive higher education experience, including Director of Financial Aid, an instructor for business programs and roles in Student Services and Career Services. Her broad background in administration of academic faculty and programs, efforts toward student retention and support, and involvement in professional and community projects will serve her well leading these same functions at the Lansing Campus.

Susan obtained a Master’s degree in Administration from Central Michigan University, a Bachelor’s degree in Business Administration/Political Science from Olivet College and an Associate degree of Applied Arts & Science/Criminal Justice from St. Clair Community College in Port Huron.

Steven Stromp promoted to Executive Director of Market Intelligence

Steven Stromp has been promoted to the role of Executive Director of Market Intelligence. In this role, Steven will lead market research initiatives that will support decision making related to new academic degree offerings, campus locations and more.

Steven has been a key contributor to Davenport’s ongoing success for nearly 10 years, most recently serving as Director of Primary Research. This year, he also joined the academic team as an Adjunct Instructor of Marketing Foundations and Marketing Research. Prior to joining Davenport in May 2004, Steven was a Senior Project Director for Harris Interactive and, before that, served as a Research Analyst for Spectrum Health. Steven obtained his MBA with a Strategic Management Concentration from Davenport and earned his Bachelor of Science in Communications from Grand Valley State University.

Alum hired as ED of Process Improvement

Kathy Miner, who most recently served as a Senior Process Engineer for Spectrum Health, recently joined Davenport on Dec. 9 as the new Executive Director of Process Improvement. With more than 12 years of process improvement and project management experience at Spectrum, Kathy is certified as a Project Management Professional (PMP) and earned Process Management and Improvement Certification from the University of Chicago and Healthcare Performance and Improvement Certification from Michigan State University. Kathy is a two-time Davenport University graduate, earning her Associate of Marketing degree in 1999 and her Bachelor of Human Resources Management degree in 2002.
Toward the end of 2013, Davenport University’s Athletic Department released the exciting news that the Board of Trustees had approved the creation of a football program. With 28 programs already in the mix, adding football was a momentous decision intended to support enrollment growth at the W.A. Lettinga Campus.

Hiring a Head Coach is the first step in getting the program off the ground. The position was posted in January with the expectation of it being filled by July 2014. The Head Coach will be responsible for developing policies and procedures for the program along with an effective recruiting strategy. This fall, he will be expected to look for offensive and defensive coordinators and start recruiting athletes for the following year. The current goal is to recruit between 40 and 60 students to enroll for Fall 2015.

The most successful football conference in the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) is the Mid-States Football Association (MSFA). DU is hoping to join this conference for the first full year of competition in the fall of 2016.

The expansion of facilities to accommodate the football program, and Track and Field, is still in developmental stages.

The hop, step and jump

With the proposed expansion of the Farmers Insurance Athletic Complex at the W.A. Lettinga Campus, the Track and Field program will be able to grow and position itself in a better competitive situation in the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference (WHAC) and nationally.

Because of this, DU’s Track and Field Head Coach Scott Cook welcomed his first, full-time staff member, Assistant Coach Matt Hewson, earlier this year. Cook’s goal is to hire additional full-time staff to help manage the program, which he expects to grow to around 75 athletes for Fall 2014 and upwards of 120 athletes for Fall 2015.
Thinking (and studying) globally

Preparation for success in today’s global workforce means acquiring the combination of knowledge, skills and attitudes often referred to as “global competencies.” Students must become knowledgeable about other countries, develop cross-cultural communication skills and acquire the sensitivity that enables them to appreciate and work with diverse cultures. This is exactly why hundreds of Davenport University students in many different study abroad and internship programs have traveled to various destinations across the globe through the University’s Education Abroad Programs.

“Employers surveyed indicate they are interested in graduates who can think globally,” said Alan Walczak, of the Office of Global Programs at Davenport. “The best way for a student to understand what those words even mean is to participate in a study abroad program.”

DU provides these kinds of opportunities through its faculty-led and partnership study abroad programs, enabling students to study almost anywhere in the world from three weeks to one year. In 2013, students studied finance, leadership and legal studies in London, and business and 5,000 years of tradition in China, toured multinational corporations in Germany and France, learned about global economics amid the diverse flora and fauna in Kenya, experienced a Spanish language immersion program in Costa Rica, and completed internships in China and Spain.

The University’s international programs continue to grow due to increased interest and the generous support of scholarship and grant offerings to deserving students. Approximately 50% of students participating in DU programs are graduate level, and more than 90% utilized some form of financial aid to fund the experience. For more information on how to help fund international study, contact Leah Beakins, Director of Annual Giving, at 616-233-3418.

Fast facts

- Nearly 100% of students who participate in Study Abroad say they learn the ability to adapt behaviors to interact effectively with those who are different (DU Internal Survey, 2013)
- 91% learn coping skills in unfamiliar situations (DU Internal Survey, 2013)
- 94% cite learning more about how to look at an issue from the perspective of another (DU Internal Survey, 2013)
- Number of U.S. students studying abroad has tripled over the past two decades. (Institute of International Education, 2013)

1. DU and Ningbo University students explore ruins in China. 2. Students in front of the Sanssouci Palace in Potsdam, Germany. 3. Exploring Tarragona’s ancient Roman ruins near Barcelona, Spain.
CAMPUS CORNER

DU Campuses honor MLK Day

To honor Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, many Davenport campuses across the state participated in giving back to the communities they serve.

As part of a College Town Collaborative, more than 100 staff, students and community volunteers at the Flint Campus worked together to make 75 no-sew blankets for Project Linus, a non-profit organization dedicated to providing “security through blankets” for ill or traumatized children and teens.

The Holland Campus partnered with neighboring Grand Valley State University to paint, clean and do light maintenance for the Holland Rescue Mission.

In partnership with the Kalamazoo Community MLK Day of Service, the Kalamazoo Campus volunteered in various roles ranging from painting and cleaning to delivering meals and reading to school children.

The Lansing Campus participated in a Helping Hands Service Day at the Ronald McDonald House of Mid-Michigan. Students, staff and faculty assisted in setting up a room for a new family, folding linens and cleaning up the kitchen.

More than 30 volunteers joined staff and students from the Livonia and Warren Campuses to assemble care packages for homeless veterans in Metro Detroit. Half of the packages were distributed by Michigan Veterans Foundation, a non-profit that offers comprehensive support for homeless vets. The other half were sent to veterans at the John Dingell VA Medical Center in Detroit.

Two local Girl Scout troops and a Top Teens Group joined nearly 60 staff, students and volunteers at the Saginaw Campus to make 27 fleece-tied quilts. The quilts were then donated to three shelters in Saginaw – The Underground Railroad, The Good Neighbor Mission and the Saginaw Rescue Mission.

Additional Campus happenings

Battle Creek
Campus staff decorated a DU-themed Christmas Tree for the International Festival of Lights this past holiday season and hosted community members with free hot cocoa in the festival’s official “warming house” in downtown Battle Creek.

Midland
This past holiday season, students and staff at the Midland Campus joined together to help a family in need. Gifts, food and monetary donations were collected to assist in making the holiday bright for the family of three. The mother, who is balancing college and work, was very appreciative of DU’s willingness to assist in making the holidays merry for her teenage children.

Traverse City
MBA student Lauren Harris and her dance partner, Lars Kelto, participated in the annual “Swing Shift and the Stars” fundraiser for Traverse City-area charities. Together they raised $21,704 in donations and generously donated the money to the Great Lakes Children’s Museum.

Warren
Last November, Warren Campus staff and students collected 2,410 pounds of food for Gleaners Community Food Bank, a non-profit that provides “millions of pounds of donated and purchased food to people in need” throughout eastern Mich.
The real game changer is you!

By Peg Luy
Executive Vice President for Alumni & Development

In this issue of DU Review, you’ve learned about Davenport’s new College of Urban Education and the tremendous impact the program will have. Not only will it radically change how educators and leaders are prepared for service in our urban school districts, helping to reduce teacher turnover rates, but it will also especially benefit the students in those urban environments.

Students prepared by Davenport University “Get Where the World Is Going” not just because they land the jobs of the future, but because they understand what they need to do once they get there. If you’re an employer who hires fresh-out-of-college graduates, that’s a real game changer!

Through Davenport’s ongoing dialog with employers, we understand the content and competencies our graduates need to be successful in their new careers. In a recent survey of employers, the quality of Davenport graduates was rated very positively at 4.1 on a 5-point scale, with more than 90% stating they would hire a DU graduate again based on their experience.

Davenport alumni are game changers for their employers and for their communities. DU alumni also have the opportunity to be a game changer for students who need scholarship assistance to complete their college educations. There has never been a more exciting time in the history of Davenport, with new degree programs, new facilities and exciting new directions.

As you think about your own DU experiences, please consider supporting scholarships that will help a new wave of Davenport students “Get Where the World Is Going” in business, technology and health professions and, very soon, urban education! Your gift can make a real difference! Thank you so much for your interest and support!
Working together to create a greater impact

The value of connections is not lost on alumni Ken Fortier ('01), Mark Peters ('93) and Keith Klingenberg ('71). In fact, it’s the basis of Fortier’s consulting firm and book, *NetPlus Connections: Be the One Who Makes Everyone Else’s World Bigger and Better.*

Connections made and cultivated are how many business owners and entrepreneurs find success in a recovering economy and marketplace. For Fortier, Peters and Klingenberg, their connection to each other and to Davenport University became the foundation for an Entrepreneurial Scholarship for students at DU.

Each alumna has found success in the business community through their creative approaches to solving problems and persevering in the face of failure, and each had guidance and support along the way. According to Peters, “It’s getting harder and harder to start enterprises, or there is a sense that it’s more difficult because of regulations. We were inspired to create a scholarship, not only to encourage students to look at an entrepreneurial route for their career from a financial standpoint, but also to give them tools to be able to do that in a more complex world through mentorship and guidance.”

Fortier, former owner and CEO of Quantum Leap Communications, became a Davenport University Alumni Board Member in 2010, where he met Mark Peters, CEO of Butterball Farms Inc., and Keith Klingenberg, Principal and Managing Director at TrueNorth Companies. Pondering ways to help and support local entrepreneurs, Fortier began to talk to DU staff about opportunities at Davenport for starting a scholarship. He then used Watermark Country Club’s “Watermark Business Connections” event to raise money for the scholarship, and in just one year raised more than $1,000 from event attendees.

Peters was invited to speak at one of the events and, after hearing about the scholarship, enthusiastically committed to supporting it. Klingenberg completed the trifecta when he realized how the scholarship would create financial and experiential opportunities for entrepreneurs that leveraged real-world experiences and diminished the financial burden of achieving that degree.

Their ultimate goal is for the scholarship to act as a bridge between entrepreneurs with an idea and the drive to make it a reality and the mentors who can help entrepreneurs make connections and guide them along the way. Klingenberg frames it in this way: “I’ve been involved in really successful businesses and in complete failures. There isn’t a whole lot of grey in an entrepreneur’s life; the line between failure and success is incredibly thin, and ultimately, the failures may teach you the most.”

With support from Peters and Klingenberg, Fortier’s original goal of raising $10,000 has now blossomed to a goal of raising $50,000 to build an endowed scholarship, and the team of mentors now includes three of West Michigan’s most successful and approachable business leaders.

For more information on how to join in this effort, please contact Leah Bekins, Director of Annual Giving, at lbekins@davenport.edu.
The Hearst Foundations honor Mable Engle Nursing Program with $100,000 grant

The College of Health Professions’ Mable Engle Nursing Program has been honored by The Hearst Foundations with a $100,000 grant to provide scholarships over the next three years to eligible nursing students in their junior and/or senior years, as needed, to complete their four-year nursing degrees.

The Hearst Foundations, founded in 1945 by William Randolph Hearst, provide philanthropic funds that identify and grant resources to “outstanding nonprofits to ensure that people of all backgrounds in the United States have the opportunity to build healthy, productive and inspiring lives.” Scholarships from The Hearst Foundations will help ensure that deserving DU students receive the financial support they need to obtain their nursing degrees.

Working collaboratively, DU’s Financial Aid office and Nursing faculty will identify the Bachelor of Science in Nursing students who would best benefit from the scholarships based on a combination of financial need, merit and academic status.

Upon graduation, more than 85% of Davenport students remain in the geographic area in which they attended Davenport. Therefore, these scholarships will not only serve the nursing students in the Grand Rapids, Warren, Lansing and Midland communities of Michigan during the course of their four-year degrees but also make a significant impact on the healthcare industries within these communities where the graduates will work as nurses for years to come.

Because of you – Annual Giving update

Thanks to the amazing support of Davenport University alumni, employees and friends, more than $46,000 was raised for DU scholarships in just two months! In November and December of 2013, many of you received letters from Davenport asking you to support scholarships for the college from which you received your degree or the campus where you work or attended classes. Many of you responded, allowing us to grow our most in-demand scholarships. Your overwhelming generosity will help 18 more students receive scholarship support next academic year, and we could not be more thankful for your help. If you would still like to make a gift to support the scholarship you received as a student, a scholarship to help a student pursuing a degree within the Colleges of Business, Health Professions or Technology, or a scholarship to help a student taking classes at the campus you attended, please contact Leah Bekins, Director of Annual Giving, lbekins@davenport.edu.
Madden takes the helm as Executive Director of Alumni & Development

Jason Madden has been promoted to Executive Director of Alumni & Development for Davenport University. Formerly Director of Development and Athletic Fundraising, Madden assumed new responsibilities with the departure of Cathie Rogg, formerly DU’s Director of Alumni Relations.

Madden has been with DU for nearly nine years in a number of roles, with the last five in Alumni & Development. He has served as Co-Chair of the highly successful Davenport Scholarship Golf Classic Committee, initiated the athletic fundraising program and the Panther Athletic Fund, and serves on the Excellence in Business Gala Planning Committee. Honored with DU’s Outstanding Young Alumni award in 2012, Madden earned his MBA in Accounting from Davenport in 2008.

Rogg left Davenport to take on a new role as Vice President of Corporate Engagement for Inforum, a leading professional organization focused on creating strategic connections and accelerating careers for women throughout Michigan and the Midwest. While at DU, Rogg led the reinstatement of the Alumni Association and its Board of Directors and helped establish regional alumni councils, the Young Alumni Council, the Future Alumni Network of Students, a new alumni website and numerous other initiatives.

Alumni Survey

While we truly enjoy meeting and hearing from alumni in person, we like to survey our greater alumni body every three to five years to ensure we are best serving your needs and wishes. Therefore, the 2014 Alumni Survey is available for your responses. Please take 10–15 minutes to complete this online survey. Your completed survey will qualify you for one of several $100 Meijer or Amazon gift card drawings.

You may access the survey one of two ways:

• Go to davenport.edu/alumnisurvey and begin the process!
• Go to DUalum.com — enjoy the new website and click on the link in the Alumni Survey section.

The drawings for gift certificates will be held every Friday commencing on April 4 and ending on May 9, 2014. Get your survey in early! The earlier it’s in, the more chances you have to win! For survey-related questions, email alumni@davenport.edu.

New ways to connect with DU alumni

By Jason Madden
Executive Director of Alumni & Development

Excitement abounds in the office of DU’s Alumni Relations!

We recently unveiled a newly designed website that features the latest and greatest alumni news, easy access to important links for DU graduates and more benefits for our alumni. You can access the alumni website at DUalum.com or by visiting davenport.edu and clicking on Alumni at the top of the page. Either way will lead you to a vibrant and interactive site that will easily direct you to the latest news, updated benefits, event registrations and more!

We also contracted with a premiere organization, Harris Connect, to help us locate our graduates and update their records to create a 2014 Alumni Today Directory.

We hope you find the redesigned website and forthcoming directory to be valuable assets of your complimentary Alumni Association membership.

One more exciting bit of news is the Alumni Survey we are launching with this magazine. Please go to davenport.edu/alumnisurvey to complete this important, quick and easy questionnaire. In order to serve you better, we need to know what you need and want. Thank you!
Alumni Association Board of Directors welcomes three new board members

The Davenport University Alumni Association Board of Directors is honored to introduce three new members. Gerilyn May, Barbara Meconis and Mark Minder officially began serving at the January 2014 meeting and will stay on for the next three years. Welcome!

Thank you to Mike Door ’77, Mark Peters ’93 and Carlos Sanchez ’07 who have served on the Alumni Association Board of Directors over the last few years. We truly appreciate their commitment and contribution to Davenport University!

Gerilyn May, ’98, BBA Management
Managing Director, Ele's Place

Gerilyn, pictured with DU Chancellor Emeritus Donald W. Maine, earned her Bachelor of Business Administration degree in Management from Davenport while working full-time and raising a family. She worked with the Helen DeVos Children’s Hospital Foundation, the Make-A-Wish Foundation and the Van Andel Institute during her career.

Gerilyn currently serves as the Managing Director of Ele’s Place, a healing center for grieving children and teens in Grand Rapids. Gerilyn is the 2013 recipient of the Davenport University Distinguished Alumni Award. She is involved in the Rockford school community and volunteers for numerous events that support not only the district but also its students. She is a trustee of the Stephen May Scholarship Fund in honor of her son, which annually awards two humanitarian scholarships to graduating seniors from Rockford High School.

Barbara Meconis, ’00, BAS Health Care Administration
Co-Founder, Holistic Care Approach

Barbara, pictured with Dr. Rick Pappas, is a co-founder of Holistic Care Approach (HCA), a natural healing center located in Grand Rapids. She is a versatile healthcare professional with extensive experience progressing from clinical to administrative roles in profit and non-profit healthcare organizations to ownership of HCA. Celebrating its 10th anniversary, HCA is now a multi-disciplinary wellness center under the guidance of a medical director, offering a wide range of naturopathic medicine, products and programs.

Barbara also serves as a holistic nurse consultant, allergy elimination technique practitioner and speaker at corporate and non-profit health and wellness programs, seminars and workshops.

Barbara also volunteers and supports numerous charitable organizations including Blandford Nature Center, Local First, Inforum, Healthy Homes Coalition of West Michigan and Kids Food Basket. She is the recipient of the 2013 Davenport University College of Health Professions Alumni Achievement Award.

Mark Minder, ’96, BBA Management, Detroit College of Business
Investment Advisor, RFC and Founder, Minder Planning Group, LLC

Mark is a graduate of one of Davenport University’s predecessor institutions, the Detroit College of Business, and will represent the east side of the state on the Alumni Board. In 2009, Mark founded Minder Planning Group, LLC in his hometown of Grand Blanc, Mich. Before starting this company, he enjoyed a very successful 18-year career in the financial services industry working for several of the world’s largest financial advice providers.

Mark works with clients and their families to assist them in managing all aspects of their financial lives. His goal with each client is to ensure that their current and future financial needs are met so that they can spend their time and energy on more important matters such as spending time with family and enjoying life. Mark specializes in developing strategic plans for accomplishing short-term and long-term goals that exist in all three phases of a client’s financial lifecycle: Wealth Accumulation, Wealth Preservation & Wealth Transfer.
Call for Alumni Award nominations

The Alumni & Development Office is seeking nominations for the 2014 Alumni Awards that recognize deserving Davenport graduates who have shown outstanding professional accomplishments and demonstrated leadership and dedication in the fields of business, technology and health.

Three of the nomination categories include a graduate from each profession of study — Donald W. Maine College of Business, College of Technology and College of Health Professions.

An outstanding graduate will be selected for the Hy Berkowitz Professional Excellence Award in recognition of exceptional professional and personal accomplishments in his or her chosen field and in the community. The recipient will have overcome challenges to complete his or her degree and become established in a professional field.

The Outstanding Young Alumni Award will recognize a graduate who has accomplished early achievements in his or her chosen field, has demonstrated innovative and responsible professional leadership and has successfully engaged in community service.

The final category of honor is the Distinguished Alumni Award, an honor established in 1974 to recognize exceptional graduates who represent the University’s mission, vision and values. The recipient will have made notable achievements in his or her field and will be a distinguished person in public life, business or service to others.

Nominate someone! If you know someone who is deserving of these honors, please complete the online nomination form at DUALUM.COM/awards. For more information, contact the Alumni & Development Office at 866-248-0012.
A sporting legacy

The sports of softball and baseball have a long history at Davenport University. Archived school publications show men’s teams began as early as the 1940s and women’s teams as early as the 1960s. With the game of baseball becoming popular in the United States just about a decade before the University was founded, it is possible that we had even earlier teams forgotten by time.

A photograph of the 1910 McLachlan Business School baseball team exists in the Davenport University archives. Davenport and McLachlan merged in 1924 and for many years were known as the Davenport McLachlan Institute. The two schools were separate competitors in 1910, but if McLachlan had a baseball team, it is possible Davenport did as well. We would love to find verifying documentation through the descendants of alumni or local history resources.

Documentation does exist of a men’s baseball team, called the Lancers, in the 1940s. Yearbooks indicate the team was launched in 1940 and struggled that first year with a no-win season. The team’s record improved in subsequent seasons as the Lancers boasted “flashy fielding combined with good pitching and timely hitting” and took on opponents that included Central Michigan University, Hope College, Muskegon Junior College, Aquinas College and the Western Michigan “Frosh.”

Student newsletters make no mention of baseball in the 1950s, but softball was an active sport at Davenport. By the 1960s, softball images appear in yearbooks for DU and other schools owned by Davenport that would ultimately become DU campuses. The 1960 Saginaw Business Institute yearbook is the only one currently in our archives that features a women’s softball team. The Detroit College of Business was the 1969 champion in the Southeastern College Athletic Association intramural league.

The DavenPress was the name of DU’s school newspaper in the 1980s. Articles and photos from that publication show teams forming in that decade to play in the Grand Rapids City League, though little else is known about their activities.

Today, Davenport University has a vibrant and accomplished athletic program that includes NAIA baseball and softball teams. For more information, go to dupanthers.com.

The Davenport University Archives collects photos and keepsakes from alumni that document student activities, including sports. If you would like to share your stories or donate material to the archives, contact Davenport University Archivist, Jennifer Morrison, at jennifer.morrison@davenport.edu or 616.554.5664, ext. 6145. For an online exhibit about baseball and softball at Davenport, visit the DU archives’ libguide at libguides.davenport.edu/archives.
Professional

Christine Allen, ’13 ABA, is now a Supervisor at Auto-Owners Insurance in Grand Rapids.

Paul Bronsink, ’13 BBA & MBA Finance, accepted a position as a Credit Analyst at Chemical Bank in Grand Rapids.

Joel Brummel, ’13 BS Information Management, was hired at Spectrum Health in Grand Rapids as a Site Billing and Coding Specialist.

Jessica Burmeister, ’13 BBA Management, joined FireKeepers Casino in Battle Creek as a Dual Rate Floor Supervisor.

Laura Burzynski, ’12 BBA, is now an Order Fulfillment Specialist at Dow Chemical Co. in Midland.

Leonard Clark, ’12 AAS Programming, accepted a position at Beaumont Hospital in Royal Oak as an Application Analyst.

Leann Convis, ’09 MSIA Information Security, is now a Computer Programmer at Spartan Stores Inc. in Grand Rapids.

Sheila Courser, ’13 AAS Information Management, accepted a position at McKesson in Livonia as a Coder.

Jeremy Davis, ’04 BBA Marketing, joined Michigan State University’s Broad College of Business as the new Associate Director of the Weekend MBA program. He is responsible for admissions, marketing and student support at the East Lansing and Troy campuses.

Jaclyn Delaney, ’13 BBA Business, is now a Senior Sales Support Specialist at AT&T.

Jacob Eaton, ’12 BBA Management, accepted a position at MLive Media Group in Kalamazoo as an Account Executive.

Laura Fleeger, ’12 BS Information Management, joined the Born Clinic in Grand Rapids as a Check-out Receptionist.

Heather Goodale, ’12 BBA Marketing, accepted a position as Senior Recruiter at Management Business Solutions in Grand Rapids.

Laura Griffith, ’09 BBA, is now a Recruiter at VP Total Solutions in Flint.

Christina Haralson, ’12 ABA Human Resources, was hired as a Human Resources Representative at Diversified Distribution Systems, LLC in Grand Rapids.

Lindsey Henry, ’11 BBA Management, joined Automated Machine Systems as a Project Manager.

Hannah Johnston, ’12 AAS Phlebotomy, was hired as a Flow Nurse at Mercy Health – Saint Mary’s in Grand Rapids.

Nathan Kravat, ’13 BS Networking, accepted an Executive IT Support position at Dow Corning in Midland.

Jessica Lewis-Perry, ’13 AAS Phlebotomy, is now a Medical Assistant at Family Health Center of Battle Creek.

Tammy Miller, ’13 ABA Health Services Administration, accepted a position at H&R Block as a Customer Service Representative.

Catrenia Overweg, ’12 AS Paralegal – Legal Administration, was hired as a Paralegal Assistant at Justice for Our Neighbors in Grand Rapids.

Teresa Palmitier, ’13 BBA Accounting, is now an Accounting Assistant at Habitat for Humanity of Kent County.

Brett Pnazek, ’10 BBA Management, accepted a position at Michigan Office Solutions in Grand Rapids as a Supervisor Parts & Supplies.

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

Ryan Rogers, ’08 BBA Marketing, is now a Partner at Digital Limelight Media in Grand Rapids.

Michelle Smith, ’11 BS Accounting, accepted a position as Debit Card Fraud Analyst at Kalsee Credit Union in Kalamazoo.

Trisha Stiles, ’12 BS Information Management, is now a Document Analyst at Sparrow Hospital in Lansing.

Aaron Townsend, ’13 BS Systems-Networking, accepted a position as a Systems Engineer at the KR Group.

Kathy Turnbull, ’13 BBA, joined Dow Corning in Saginaw as a Global Incident Manager.

Jeanne Van Kammen, ’12 AAS Information Management, accepted a position at Spectrum Health in Grand Rapids as an Inpatient Coder.

Kelli Wyse, ’12 AS Paralegal – Legal Administration, recently joined the Legal Self-Help Center of Ottawa County as a Paralegal Assistant.

Honors/Awards

Annie Shetler-Olds, ’06 MBA Strategic Management, was recognized in the Traverse City Business News’ 2013 “40 Under 40” list that honors community leaders whose work and connections most impact the Traverse City area’s way of life and bottom line.

Deaths

Ruth Mahder Kilmer, ’54 BA Executive Secretarial, passed away in September 2013.


Margaret Spycher, ’04 AAS Management, passed away in June 2012.

Bob Vanderson, former President of the DU Foundation Board, passed away in January 2014.

Save the dates! Exciting alumni events are around the corner!

Lansing Lugnuts vs. Kane County Cougars
When: Friday, July 18
Join Lansing-area alumni at the Cooley Law School Stadium Tailgate Terrace for a fun day at the ballpark. Your ticket includes private seating, food, soft drinks and post-game fireworks!

Great Lakes Loons vs. Kane County Cougars
When: Saturday, July 19
Davenport’s Midland and Saginaw alumni unite to host this fourth annual event. Join us for a fun day at the ballpark atop Lasorda’s Landing. Your ticket includes private seating, food, soft drinks and post-game fireworks!

DU @ the Zoo
When: Saturday, August 2
The Alumni Association will be hosting the DU at the Zoo event on Saturday, Aug. 2, 2014. Join fellow students, alumni, faculty, staff and friends for a fun-filled day at the Detroit Zoo.

28th Annual Scholarship Golf Classic
When: Monday, August 18
Put your team together for the annual Scholarship Golf Classic held at Egypt Valley Country Club in Grand Rapids. Play in the golf scramble or just join us for dinner. More details to come soon!

Look for more information including how to register for these great events at DValum.com.
SAVE THE DATE

Blake W. Krueger, CEO Wolverine World Wide

Captain Richard Phillips

Peter C. Cook Award Honoree:
Blake W. Krueger
CEO, Wolverine World Wide

Keynote Speaker:
Captain Richard Phillips
Author of _A Captain’s Duty: Somali Pirate, Navy SEALS, and Dangerous Days at Sea_

Friday, May 2, 2014
DeVos Place in Grand Rapids

For reservations, call 616-233-3420 or email events@davenport.edu or visit davenport.edu/EIB.