Annual Excellence in Business Gala raises money for student scholarships
Commencement is one of my favorite events each year. Seeing all the students walk across the stage in front of their peers, their friends, their instructors and, most importantly, their families, is what makes it so gratifying. Commencement represents the culmination of a lot of hard work and sacrifice. Often, Commencement represents the moment a person’s life trajectory changes for the better.

As an educator, I find nothing more rewarding than seeing students succeed. This is observed in the classroom when students answer questions and engage in the subject. We see success in improved test scores and GPAs. We see it when students persist in their studies from year to year, and ultimately, we see success when they graduate, pumping their fists in the air as they receive their diplomas.

Some graduates cannot fully contain their exuberance. Such was the case with Robert “Bobby” Blank, who walked the stage at our 2014 Commencement Ceremony at Van Andel Arena in Grand Rapids on April 27. After receiving his diploma and congratulations from several trustees, his dean and me, Bobby attempted a backflip — and failed.

Video footage of the failed backflip quickly became an Internet sensation, spreading wildly via social media. News media picked up the story, and soon Bobby’s failed flip was appearing on ABC World News, CNN, Inside Edition and even The Tonight Show with Jimmy Fallon. A few of the news stories included a portion of my remarks, where I tell graduates that I am sure they will succeed in all they do, a result of how DU has prepared them. Shown with Bobby’s failed stunt, my comments seemed humorous.

The reality is all of us experience setbacks and failures in life. True success, however, is a result of getting back up and trying again after falling down. Bobby later demonstrated on local television and on the nationally-syndicated Steve Harvey Show that he could actually land the flip. He personified the concept that success isn’t always found on the first try.

I hope that all of you continue to pursue your dreams and don’t allow failure or setbacks to keep you down. Getting back up and trying again, persisting through trials and setbacks, is the true definition of success. Thank you, Bobby, for helping make Davenport’s 2014 Commencement Ceremony yet another teachable moment!

Sincerely,
Richard J. Pappas, Ed.D.
President
Nearly 600 donors attended Davenport’s annual Excellence in Business Gala at DeVos Place in downtown Grand Rapids on May 2 to honor Blake W. Krueger as the 2014 Peter C. Cook Excellence in Business Award recipient and to hear the featured guest speaker, Captain Richard Phillips.

The event, which has helped raise more than $2.1 million over the last 17 years, is DU’s largest fundraiser benefitting scholarships. The generosity of donors is critical for Davenport students who rely upon scholarship support to successfully earn their degrees and secure rewarding careers.

Captain Phillips spoke about leadership and humbly recounted his tale of being captured by Somali pirates who hijacked his ship the Maersk Alabama in 2009, the first hijacking of a U.S. ship in more than 200 years. The five-day ordeal was chronicled in his book, “A Captain’s Duty: Somali Pirates, Navy SEALs, and Dangerous Days at Sea,” and the Oscar-nominated film “Captain Phillips” starring Tom Hanks.

Phillips commended the bravery and honor of the Navy SEAL snipers and members of SEAL Team Six, who rescued him from the pirates and brought him to safety. He recognized them, the U.S. military and his crew as the real heroes of the situation.

“At sea, you can never count on anyone riding to your rescue. You can’t pass the buck unless you take action yourself,” declared Captain Phillips. “You’ve got to be able to take emergencies head-on; whether it’s a broken bone or a pirate attack, you learn firsthand that we are all stronger than we realize.”
Blake W. Krueger honored with 2014 Peter C. Cook Excellence in Business Award

Blake W. Krueger, Chairman, CEO and President of Wolverine World Wide, Inc., was honored with the 2014 Peter C. Cook Excellence in Business Award. As an exemplary businessman and well-respected community leader, Krueger emulates the example set by Peter Cook of remaining faithful to a core set of beliefs.

“The biggest commonality between Peter Cook and Blake is that everybody liked them,” stated Peter Secchia, former U.S. Ambassador to Italy. “They like what they stood for and their principles of business.”

“Blake is the perfect example of what makes Grand Rapids and West Michigan a wonderful place for business, to raise a family and have a career,” said Birgit Klohs, President of The Right Place, Inc. “He’s most deserving of the Peter Cook award.”

1. Blake Krueger addresses the audience
2. (L to R): Enjoying the moment are Wolverine World Wide executives Pat Coleman, Mark Ellis, Alan Abraham, Blake Krueger, Peter Assaly and Hank Dunnick
3. EIB attendees socializing
4. Chairman of DU’s Board of Trustees Tracy Graham pauses on the red carpet with Past Honoree, Board of Trustees and Foundation Board Member Wilbur A. Lettinga and Past Honoree and Chancellor Emeritus Don Maine
5. Business and community leader Ralph Hauenstein with Past Honoree and Chancellor Emeritus Don Maine
In partnership with Townsquare Media (WLHT & WTRV), two coveted tickets to the EIB Gala were given away on Facebook. The winners were Sue Harkema Jeurink and her husband, Todd Jeurink, who also happens to be a DU grad! Todd graduated in 1994 with a Bachelor’s degree in Computer Information Systems. He credited Davenport for helping him “get where the world is going” by providing the classes and skills he needed to advance in his career!

Thank you to our 2014 premier event sponsors!

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- Van Andel Institute
Nearly 2,000 graduates from across the state and beyond celebrated their new degrees during 2014 Commencement ceremonies in downtown Grand Rapids on Sunday, April 27. Blake W. Krueger, Chairman, CEO and President of Wolverine World Wide, Inc., served as Davenport's 2014 Commencement speaker and was presented with an honorary doctorate degree by the university. Blake extended his heartfelt congratulations to the 2014 graduates. Knowing the dedication and investment they put in toward graduation and the future, he continued by giving advice that he has provided to his own four Millennial children.

“It's a beautiful thing to find your calling,” encouraged Blake. “Endeavor to find yours. Overall, you'll be happier, and through that happiness, you'll ultimately be more successful. Never, ever give up. Be relentless.”

Corrina Campbell, this year's student speaker and President of the Student Nurses' Association at the Warren campus, shared a quote from Steve Jobs: “You can't connect the dots looking forward; you can only connect the dots looking backward.”

Corrina encouraged her peers to trust that their dots will connect in their futures. “In looking back at the constant challenges I faced balancing school, work and family, those were the dots that connected to make me into the dynamic leader and effective communicator I am today.”
Student Michael Croff (pictured above), well-known on the W.A. Lettinga campus for his role as the university’s unofficial photographer, walked the stage carrying several cameras and photographed the crowd. It turns out Michael was on assignment for the Communications team, photographing Commencement from the perspective of a graduate. Michael says his experiences as a student employee and photographer for DU were priceless, helping him to start his own photography business and camera equipment rental company.
DU presents at Governor’s Education Summit

Dr. Andre Perry, Founding Dean of the College of Urban Education, and Dr. Rick Pappas, President of Davenport University, presented at the Governor’s Education Summit on April 24 in Lansing about how DU will transform the way teachers and education leaders are prepared for service in urban school districts.

Davenport University wins prestigious EPIC Award

At the annual EPIC Awards banquet on May 15, the Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce (GRACC) recognized Davenport University with the prestigious “Excellence in Business” EPIC Award. EPIC stands for Entrepreneurial, Progressive, Innovative and Collaborative, and the award recognized DU’s innovation and tremendous progress toward Vision 2015.

The Chamber also recognized winners in other categories, including Young Entrepreneur of the Year, Small Business of the Year, Woman-Owned Business Award, Minority-Owned Business and Nonprofit of the Year.

“The University’s Vision 2015 is an ambitious undertaking for this long-standing education pillar in the West Michigan community, and the measured improvement in outcomes over the past few years is simply stunning,” said Blake Krueger in his letter. “Achievement of Davenport’s Vision 2015 will separate this university from the pack. Through its quality initiatives, Davenport will make a lasting impact on its students, their current and future employers, and our community.”

In his letter, Jandernoa compared Davenport’s quality journey with that of Perrigo while he was President and CEO. “We also made the decision to infuse continuous quality improvement in all we did, with remarkable results for our business. To see a university strive to achieve these same types of improvement through quality is encouraging and remarkable.”
Sixty years ago, in the landmark case Brown v. Board of Education, the U.S. Supreme Court declared “separate, but equal” education was unconstitutional. DU’s College of Urban Education commemorated the anniversary with a symposium and teach-off at the W.A. Lettinga campus.

The event, “Brown v. Board of Education at 60: Making Good on the Promise for STEM,” brought together administrators, teachers and about 100 students from Grand Rapids Public Schools (GRPS) Innovation Central High School for a day filled with activities and discussions focused on the importance of closing the persistent achievement gap that exists in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) disciplines in urban classroom settings.

Three nationally-known educators — Gary Abud, award-winning physics teacher from Grosse Pointe North High School, Dr. Melissa Collins, second-grade teacher from John P. Freeman Optional School in Memphis, Tenn., and LaToniya Jones, award-winning speaker and educational consultant from Detroit — participated in a teach-off where each demonstrated best practices for teaching a science lesson to culturally diverse, urban students.

Also included in the event were keynote presentations by A. Oveta Fuller, Ph.D., a virology professor and member of the African Studies Center at the University of Michigan, and Calvin Mackie, Ph.D., an educator and motivational speaker based in New Orleans, about how urban educators can rise to the challenge of closing the STEM achievement gap that exists in K–12 education between white students and children of color.
BPA and DECA students shine bright in national competitions

Davenport students continue to shine at national competitions intended to test their mastery of skills learned in business and technology academic programs.

At the Business Professionals of America’s (BPA) 48th Annual National Leadership Conference held in Indianapolis, Ind., from April 30 to May 4, DU’s team of 43 students representing the W.A. Lettinga, Holland and Kalamazoo campuses earned 13 first-place awards in 63 events, an all-time BPA record. DU competed against more than 5,000 students from 20 states at the competition, earning 90 top-10 finishes. Over the last six years, DU students have earned 63 first-place finishes, also an all-time BPA record.

Chris Lammers (Grand Rapids) successfully defended his championship in network administration using Microsoft. Crystal Roberts (Holland) also defended her first-place finish in banking and finance, and the W.A. Lettinga Network Design team of Gene Bursley, Chris Lammers and Shannon Shovan also repeated as national champs. In addition to their success, 12 industry certifications for IT were awarded to Davenport students.

Earlier in April, DU’s DECA team of 17 W.A. Lettinga students competed in Washington, D.C., against nearly 2,000 students from colleges across the U.S., Canada and Puerto Rico, earning eight top-10 finalist awards. In addition to proving their knowledge and skills against their collegiate peers, students participated in leadership development as part of DECA’s professional development academy.
Students from across Michigan shine at annual recognition awards

In April, students, staff and faculty from across the state gathered at the W.A. Lettinga campus to celebrate the many contributions of students at the 2014 Student Recognition Awards. Congratulations to the students and student organizations that took home awards this year!

**Student Leadership Awards**
Lonie Baranek - Midland
Jamie Barnes - W.A. Lettinga
Elijah Cooley - W.A. Lettinga
Anjanette Day - Flint
Levi Foerster - W.A. Lettinga
Sharon Horner - Warren
Miriam Raymond - Lansing
Shannon Shovan-Lee - W.A. Lettinga
Faith Synder - Midland
Maria Varitek - Warren

**Student Employee of the Year**
Valerie Starrett - Holland

**Student Volunteer of the Year**
Anjanette Day - Flint

**Diversity Program of the Year**
Hispanic Heritage Celebration – Lansing

**Educational Program of the Year**
Condom Olympics – W.A. Lettinga

**Service Program of the Year (tie)**
Alternative Spring Break – W.A. Lettinga
MLK Day of Service–Blankets for Project Linus – Flint

**Social Program of the Year**
Panther Fest – Lansing

**Registered Student Organization of the Year**
Global Student Organization (GSO) – W.A. Lettinga

1. Students, staff and faculty celebrate student leadership and commitment.
2. Students Sarah Schultz and Veronica Fawley speak with guests.
Students awarded Michigan Campus Compact Award

Eighteen students from Davenport were honored with the Michigan Campus Compact (MiCC) Award for their dedication and commitment to community service.

MiCC, a coalition of college and university presidents committed to fulfilling the public purposes of higher education, annually awards students from member higher education institutions across the state for their outstanding commitment to service-learning and civic engagement.

Students are able to earn three types of awards: The Outstanding Community Impact Award, The Commitment to Service Award, and The Heart and Soul Award. This year, more than 500 students from 34 member campuses received awards.

Commitment to Service Award
Recognizes up to two students per member campus in the state of Michigan for either the breadth or depth of their community involvement or service experiences.

- Anjanette Day (Flint)
- Suzanne Behrens (W.A. Lettinga)

Heart and Soul Award
Recognizes students for their time, effort and personal commitment to their communities through service.

- Holl Anne Blohm (Midland)
- Alison Bouman (W.A. Lettinga)
- Debra Burton (Livonia)
- Corrina Campbell (Warren)
- Scott DeGraaf (W.A. Lettinga)
- Reinier Fontaine–Perez (W.A. Lettinga)
- Z'miece Gaines (Saginaw)
- Lloyd Haskins IV (W.A. Lettinga)
- Daniel Hume (W.A. Lettinga)
- Heather Krueger (W.A. Lettinga)
- Mark Matuszewski (Midland)
- Violet Parmeter (W.A. Lettinga)
- Kaylani Rubley (W.A. Lettinga)
- Andreya Teuber (W.A. Lettinga)
- Michael Thomas (W.A. Lettinga)
- Rebecca Veneklase (W.A. Lettinga)
This past spring, DU nursing staff, faculty and students had two prime opportunities to partner with police, fire and emergency rescue personnel to provide triage and treatment to victims in simulated disaster situations.

In Grand Rapids, a full-scale plane crash simulation took place at Lacks Enterprises, a manufacturing company located just north of the W.A. Lettinga campus. The simulation was organized by the Gerald R. Ford International Airport, Kent County Sheriff’s Department and area emergency response teams, all of which participated in the drill along with College of Health Professions faculty, staff and students.

The exercise simulated a plane crashing into the Lacks building, with more than 50 volunteers role-playing victims. Local emergency responder teams were on-site and fully deployed their equipment and personnel. Nursing students worked alongside Emergency Medical Services (EMS) teams to triage victims. The lower level of the DeVos and Van Andel Academic Building was utilized as a simulated emergency room, triage area and hospital where victims were transported via ambulance from the crash site.

In Warren, staff and Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) students worked with federal agencies, Oakwood Healthcare and other emergency response partners in a Veterans Affairs (VA) hospital emergency preparedness situation. The simulation involved a catastrophic earthquake hitting portions of the Midwest.

In the scenario, catastrophic damage rendered hospital and health treatment centers in the area unusable, which forced the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to transport victims to other healthcare facilities, including the VA Detroit and Karmanos Cancer Center, where rescue personnel accompanied by the LPN students were responsible for triaging, tracking and treating patients.

Overall, the emergency simulation lasted three days and included treatment for 32 actual bone marrow transplant patients.
Each year, DU’s Alternative Spring Break (ASB) gives students an opportunity to learn while addressing a social issue through their service. This year, an ASB group of nine students led by student site leaders Jessica Arrasmith and Kiandra Williams focused on critical home repair for a service project with Westminster Home Connection in Nashville, Tenn., an organization formed following disastrous floods in 2010.

To prepare for the trip, which took place Feb. 23 – March 1, participants attended bi-weekly meetings to learn more about the issues involved, bond as a group, raise money and better understand how they could grow as active citizens. They also participated in Habitat for Humanity projects.

In Nashville, the team demolished a home that had belonged to an elderly woman diagnosed with dementia. The home was no longer safe to inhabit and a new home had already been built on the property. The vacant house had been on a waiting list since the previous summer, and it would not have been torn down without the students’ hard work.

“The trip involved a lot of hard work and students coming together as a team,” said Kiandra Williams, senior at DU. “There was also the incredible beauty of the Nashville area and the great appreciation of the family whose mother we helped with this project. Through this experience, each of us was able to gain more knowledge of critical home repair, learn new life skills and form new friendships. We’ll be able to use this experience to make a difference in our own communities.”

The 2014 West Michigan Career Fair was a tremendous success with more than 100 employers looking to fill full-time, part-time and internship positions. Students arrived in professional attire with Career Services-approved resumes and were ready to network with employers and interview on the spot in new private interview booths!

Each year, Davenport’s Career Services team works hard to attract the best companies to this Career Fair, exclusive to DU students and alumni. Alums are welcome to attend or recruit at any DU Career Fair and are invited to take advantage of life-long support from the Career Services team. A representative from Career Services is ready and willing to help with resume advice, mock interview preparation and other useful skills to help land the dream job.

For more information on all Career Services events or to connect with a Career Services representative, visit davenport.edu/career-services.
Esposito named inaugural head football coach

In May, Davenport announced the hiring of Lou Esposito as the school’s inaugural Head Football Coach. Esposito comes from Ferris State University where he served as defensive coordinator and coached a unit that included new starters at virtually every position in 2013. By the end of the season, six defensive players had claimed All-GLIAC (Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference) accolades.

“I am incredibly honored and blessed for the opportunity that Davenport University has given me,” said Esposito. “There are not a lot of coaches that have the opportunity to start a program from the bottom up, and I am confident that, with the great administrative support and staff and coaches that are already here, we will be successful.”

Esposito has laid out a clear plan over the next two years before the program will even play a game. “Our first goal will be to assemble a staff that is of high character and great teachers of the game,” he said. “They will be people that I would want to have my own son play for one day. Then, we’ll recruit great individuals and great athletes. I want to bring in the captains of teams and those with a level of character who will represent our program and the university well.”

Panthers receive Daktronics-NAIA Scholar-Athlete Honors

Fourteen members of Panther Athletics were named to the Daktronics Scholar-Athlete list. To be nominated, a student-athlete must maintain a minimum grade point average of 3.5 on a 4.0 scale and achieve junior academic status.

DU honorees:
Jamie Barnes (Muskegon)
Eric Cummings (Mt. Pleasant)
Derek Dennis (Grand Rapids)
Sam Frens (Jenison)
EJ Grochowski (Grand Rapids)
Rachel Jerrils (Rockford)
Justin Jewell (Jenison)
Kristi Kuzdal (Grandville)
Cam Magro (Bridgman)
Hannah Payne (Clinton)
Eric Pell (Caledonia)
Jordan Schumann (Bay City)
Kelsee VanderBaan (Grand Rapids)
Alli Veneklase (Grand Rapids)

Brooks wins DU’s first NAIA national title

Sophomore Tori Brooks clinched two national high jump titles this spring after jumping 2.09-meters at the NAIA Indoor Championships in March and clearing seven feet at the May outdoor meet. Brooks, a Saginaw native, also achieved All-American honors in the long jump, reaching distance of 7.20-meters for a sixth-place finish.

Murphy named NAIA All-American Honorable Mention

Sophomore Corey Murphy was selected by the NAIA Baseball Coaches Association as one of 34 individuals named NAIA All-American Honorable Mention. Murphy, a Grand Rapids native, is the first student-athlete in DU history to receive an NAIA All-American accolade!
Spring Panther Athletics dominate the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference

**Men’s Baseball | Overall: 42-17 | Conference: 24-6**
Capped their historic season with a 42-17 overall record and won the WHAC regular season conference championship and the team’s first WHAC tournament championship! First baseman EJ Grochowalski (Grand Rapids) was honored with the Capital One Academic All-American of the Year Award by the College Sports Information Directors of America (CoSIDA).

**Women’s Softball | Overall: 38-10 | Conference: 16-2**
Brought home the WHAC regular season conference championship and the WHAC tournament championship! Junior shortstop KC Dunne (Buffalo Grove, Illinois) was named first team National Fastpitch Coaches Association (NFCA) All-American, and senior outfielder Amber Getty (Wayland) earned second team honors. Dunne was also named the WHAC Player of the Year!

**Men’s Lacrosse | Overall: 10-5 | Conference: 5-0**
Brought home the WHAC tournament championship! Seniors Dominic Boggiano (Grand Rapids) and Bill Linhardt (Lebanon, Ohio) along with junior Daniel Hume (Springboro, Ohio) were named to the Men’s Collegiate Lacrosse Association (MCLA) Honorable Mention All-American squad. Boggiano was also named the Central Collegiate Lacrosse Association (CCLA) Offensive Player of the Year!
Women’s Lacrosse | Overall: 16-4 | Conference: 8-2
Finished their season with a program-best 16-4, highlighted by a WHAC regular season conference championship win and the team’s first WHAC tournament championship win! Kaitlyn Lowden (Ada), Taylor Balch (Rockford), Natalie McHale (Doncaster, England), Jessica Lemke (Whitby, Ontario) and Mackenzie VanDerWarf (Lowell) earned spots on the National Women’s Lacrosse League (NWLL) All-American teams, and Coach Rob Harris was voted the NWLL’s Coach of the Year!

Women’s Tennis | Overall: 23-5 | Conference: 4-0
Finished the phenomenal season with a WHAC regular season conference championship win and a win at the NAIA Regional Tournament. Kristi Kuzdal (Grandville) earned Second Team Academic All-American Honors from CoSIDA.

Cheerleading
The Davenport cheer team competed in the NAIA All-Girl Division final and won their second NCA College National Championship! Last season, the Lady Panthers won the All-Girl Division II championship. After moving to the NAIA All-Girl Division I this year, DU qualified in first place and beat out four teams in the final round. They are the only All-Girl squad from the state of Michigan to win back-to-back national championships.
**Battle Creek**

*Battle Creek’s Pounce is about to graduate!*

The Battle Creek campus has had Pounce at student events over the past two years, and Pounce (aka student Dontrail Sykes) will be graduating in August 2014 with his Associate degree in Medical Assisting.

During his years as a student employee, in addition to livening up the campus as Pounce, Dontrail was also the Governor in Student Government and received an award as Outstanding Student of the Year. He contributed his knowledge and energy at his Phlebotomy Practicum and is currently finishing his Medical Assistant Practicum. Dontrail has been a GREAT asset to the Battle Creek campus, and we wish him well!

**Flint**

On April 2, the Flint campus hosted Northwestern High School students as part of a peer mentoring program event called “Power of the Pen.” The high school and DU students read the novel “Soul of a Black Cop” by Flint Police Officer Brian Willingham, which raises issues about gun violence. Then the students wrote position essays about the book and its theme and presented their arguments, discussing the role of a police officer in the community and whether there is a growing abundance of guns in the area.

**Holland**

The Holland campus celebrated students achieving President and Dean’s List status for the fall 2013 semester. Campus Director Linda Hood welcomed honorees along with their family and friends. This event is held every semester in recognition of students’ outstanding academic performance.

**Kalamazoo**

Davenport was well represented at Kalamazoo’s 5K Walk for MS on May 3, as several members of the campus community demonstrated support for Emily Danger, a DU student and staff member who experiences the challenge of living day-to-day with multiple sclerosis. Joining Emily were her children Hunter, Ellie and Brice, her cousin Kim Hill and DU staff members Judy Bosshart, Library Information Commons Director, and Raquel Owens, Customer Service Specialist, with her son Espen.

**Lansing**

Each year, the Capital Area Higher Education Network (CAHEN) looks for one exceptional student to represent each university within the organization. Ten students from the Lansing area were recognized for their contributions to higher education and their continued leadership in the Lansing community. The Lansing campus is proud of Amberlee Marshall, student and DU employee, in earning this award. Susan Porrett, Executive Campus Director, presented this award to Amberlee at the CAHEN event held at Cooley Law School.
Livonia
This past April, Davenport’s AmeriCorps*VISTA volunteer Trés Fuller and DU Career Services Coordinator Paul Jones, hosted a Dress for Success event. Nine students and a faculty member spent an hour talking about professional attire, the job interview process and the various experiences attendees have in the workplace. They also discussed shopping thrift stores and garage sales as cheaper alternatives to find job interview outfits. Gift cards were handed out to the participants to assist them in preparing for their next job interview.

Midland
Earlier this year, the Midland Retention Team held a Pathway to Professions event at the Midland campus. The event was geared toward all pre-College of Health Professions students to understand the quality health programs DU offers. Representatives from each program in the College of Health Professions attended to speak candidly to the audience as well as serve as panelists to answer student questions. Because the majority of health students in Midland are focused on applying to the Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) program, this event allowed them to understand how courses they are currently taking are also directly applicable to medical case management, health information and related programs.

Saginaw
Dedicated to serving our veterans and helping them to succeed both academically and in their careers, the Saginaw campus hosts a Vet-2-Vet meeting the first Tuesday of every month. The group is very active and has about 20 members. To honor them and their fallen comrades for Memorial Day, the group arrived at their last meeting to a table full of thank you cards from students as well as candy, watermelon and beverages.

Traverse City
In June, sport management major Dustin Shoff celebrated the 10th anniversary of the slamball tournament he created, a remarkable feat since he is only 23 years old. The 2014 Slamball Basketball Tournament brought together more than 90 participants in Gaylord.

Warren
In May, the Warren campus hosted a networking opportunity for current students, recent grads and other alumni. Event attendees were given the opportunity to meet with employers from southeast Michigan in order to gain important job search tips and learn networking techniques. More than 30 people attended the event and met with some great companies such as: Menards, HealthCall, Rainbow Rehabilitation, Synergy Computers Solutions and more!
UNIVERSITY NEWS

Davenport bids farewell to former Board Chairman and Trustee

Following a decade of dedicated service, Trustee Ken Bovee retired from the Davenport University Board of Trustees in July. Ken’s tenure included four years of service as Chairman.

“It has been a great honor to serve with Ken,” said Tracy Graham, Board Chairman. “He brought a sense of calm and confident leadership during very challenging times at Davenport. His leadership has been an inspiration to me and a model to be followed by future members.”

As Chairman, Ken championed the university’s inclusive strategic planning process and the expansion of Davenport’s W.A Lettinga campus to become a more complete residential experience for the students DU serves. Under his leadership, Davenport also launched a new Livonia campus and the Peter C. Cook Center in downtown Grand Rapids.

“I have always appreciated Ken’s leadership and calm demeanor,” said Dr. Rick Pappas. “He has been extraordinarily supportive of Davenport and its Vision. I thank Ken for his leadership, compassion and friendship.”

Kim Bruyn retires to pursue business interest

Kim Bruyn, Executive Vice President for University Relations and Communications, retired in June to redirect her time and talents after nearly eight years at DU.

Kim is now taking an active role in a new business venture she invested in a year ago. She will be leading special projects that encompass branding and new product development. This role not only taps her competencies and creativity but also involves international travel, which is one of her passions.

Please join us in thanking Kim for her many contributions to DU and congratulating her on her future endeavors.

Communications and Marketing teams earn numerous awards

For the third consecutive year, the DU Marketing team earned national recognition at the 29th Annual Educational Advertising Awards, winning one of the 20 Best of Show Awards out of nearly 2,000 entries submitted by more than 1,000 colleges and universities across the country. In addition to winning Best of Show for a master's program newspaper ad, Marketing earned four Gold, three Silver, three Bronze and three Merit awards. The Communications team also earned a Gold Award at the competition for DU Review magazine.

Communications was additionally honored at the 29th annual PRoof Awards by the West Michigan Public Relations Society of America (WMPRSA), earning a Gold Award for media relations support of the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program, plus Silver Awards for integrated communications support of the Lansing campus launch and scripting for the 2013 Excellence in Business Gala.
Awards recognize DU’s impact on people and communities

By Peg Luy
Executive Vice President for Alumni & Development

This issue of DU Review includes numerous articles about awards won by Davenport University and its students and alumni, as well as the awards DU presented to deserving students and members of our community. Awards are an important way for all of us to know we are on the right track and doing the right things.

Earning the EPIC Excellence in Business Award from the Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce helps DU know it is doing the right things to serve students, alumni, faculty and staff, employers and our communities. Likewise, Blake Krueger’s recognition with the Peter C. Cook Excellence in Business Award from DU helps send a message to all that his conduct as a businessman and philanthropist is worthy of emulation.

Those recognized with Student Leadership Awards can take great pride in their accomplishments in and outside the classroom. The same is true for the students who earned top recognition in BPA, DECA and athletic competitions. Congratulations to all of them for putting in the hard work and practice required to succeed! You are our future alumni!

It is gratifying to see the recognition our alumni are receiving across Michigan. For example, Barb Meconis (’01) and Ann Vidro (’96) were recognized by the Michigan Women’s Foundation as Women of Achievement and Courage. Renee Freeman (’11) was presented with the Community Pillar Award by the Lansing Black Chamber of Commerce, and Mandee Rick (’04) was honored as one of the “Most Influential Women in West Michigan” by the Grand Rapids Business Journal. Also, Baker Holtz, a CPA firm led by Lori Baker (’81), was nominated for the EPIC Small Business of the Year Award. Wherever I look these days, it seems like more DU alumni are stepping to the podium to receive an award! No doubt, countless others of whom we are not aware who are being honored. Thank you all for the tremendous impact you are making on your communities. You are living the Davenport mission and vision! (Join us for the Alumni Awards Ceremony on Oct. 9, 2014, on the W.A. Lettinga campus to see more outstanding alumni honored!)

The culture of achievement and service instilled in DU students has long-range implications for our communities, as exemplified by these wonderful alumni and the leadership they have shown. I am so proud of the impact this university is making and hope you are, too! It is important to note that these success stories would not have been possible without the support of others who contribute to our scholarship funds, provide internship opportunities, serve on boards and committees, and remain engaged in their DU community.

I hope you succeed in all your endeavors and remember those who helped you “Get Where the World Is Going.” Your gifts to Davenport make a tremendous difference! Thank you!
Jenison student awarded Gerald R. Ford Memorial Scholarship

The 2014 recipient of the university’s most prestigious scholarship — the Gerald R. Ford Memorial Scholarship — was recently announced. Caleb Adrianson, a graduate of Jenison High School boasting a 4.3 GPA, has been selected as this year’s recipient. Caleb demonstrated leadership as President of the Jenison High School DECA team and Captain of the West Michigan Wolverine Speed Team, which races in inline skating competitions. He also has been an active volunteer with activities including tutoring, Toys for Tots, the Turkey Basket Thanksgiving Food Drive and more.

About the Gerald R. Ford Memorial Scholarship

President Ford, who grew up in Grand Rapids and represented West Michigan in the U.S. Congress before becoming President, granted permission before his death in 2006 for Davenport to name a scholarship in his honor. Presented annually to a high-achieving Michigan student pursuing a four-year degree at the W.A. Lettinga campus, the scholarship covers tuition, room and board, study abroad, fees and books for four years.

Welcome Nick Glaser!

Nick Glaser recently joined Davenport’s Alumni & Development team as the new Director of Annual Giving. Nick came from Olivet College where he most recently served as the Director of Annual Giving, and before that, he worked for the Office of Enrollment Management as an Admissions Representative.

Nick holds a Bachelor’s degree in Business Administration from Olivet College and an MBA in Management from Central Michigan University.
Wilma Brudy’s legacy

Born in northern Michigan in 1914, Wilma Doris Brudy was accepted into the Secretarial Program at the then named Davenport-McLachlan Institute in 1936. She quickly became involved in student life, student council and the glee club and was very well-known on campus. The time Wilma spent at Davenport was an important catalyst for the next chapter in her life.

Following graduation, Wilma went on to hold fascinating positions that took her around the world. After World War II, Wilma relocated to Japan where she worked first as a stenographer for the U.S. Army’s Public Health and Welfare Division and then for the Hiroshima Office of the Atomic Bomb Casualty Commission. While there, she sought additional schooling at the Army Education Center, taking classes in Psychology and Japanese.

For much of the 1950s, Wilma split her time working in the States and abroad, traveling to different cities for new jobs with increasing responsibility. Her work included a posting at the Agency for International Development as well as positions in Israel and Pakistan. She returned home in the 1960s, with her last known position at the University of Detroit. At the time of her passing in 1993, Wilma left a bequest in her estate establishing a scholarship at Davenport that would provide the same opportunities she was afforded through her education to the students who attend today.

It’s impossible to sum up a person’s life in a few short paragraphs. The historical backdrop of Wilma’s story is monumental — a time of global healing and reconstruction, civil rights and the shifting role of women in the United States, as well as Davenport’s very own history, which is brought to life through the pages of the personal scrapbook that she left to DU and is still preserved in the archives.

Now that we’ve shared Wilma’s story, we want to hear from you! Your life events and successes are what color Davenport’s story. Stay connected at www.dartmouth.edu/alumni.

To make a tax-deductible contribution to the Wilma D. Brudy Memorial Scholarship, or any scholarship offered at Davenport University, please visit www.dartmouth.edu/alumni-development/make-contribution. Through donor support, we will continue to help the next generation of Davenport students achieve their career dreams and provide a college experience that they will remember for the rest of their lives.
DU wants you!

For nearly a decade, this university has been my employer and a large part of my life. I have looked to DU not only for employment but also for my MBA degree. Best of all, Davenport has given me the opportunity to work with incredible people across the state of Michigan.

In addition to the DU Alumni Board, we now have Regional Alumni Councils and the Young Alumni Council, composed of outstanding graduates who are energized to make a difference at DU and in their communities through their association with this university and other alumni. Participation in the Regional and Young Alumni Councils helps members expand their network and develop leadership skills that can have positive career results.

Please consider ways you would like to be involved more at DU by visiting the website davenport.edu. If you don’t have the time to serve in a leadership role right now, we’d just love to see you at an event! I’m always looking for more great people to work with and learn from here at DU!

Alum earns EPIC recognition

Bridgett Tubbs-Carlon, a 2001 Accounting graduate, was awarded the 2014 EPIC Award for the Women-Owned Business of the Year. Tubbs-Carlon founded Appletree Learning Center in 1998, and now owns and operates 13 locations across Michigan, creating more than 300 jobs and serving more than 20,000 children.

EPIC Award winner and DU alum Bridgett Tubbs-Carlon poses with her daughter, Anna Tubbs, after accepting her award.
Lansing Black Chamber of Commerce honors recent alum

Renee Freeman earned her BBA in Management from DU in 2011. This past spring, the Lansing Black Chamber of Commerce (LBCC) honored Freeman with the 2014 Community Pillar Award. Each year, the LBCC honors long-time pillars of the Lansing community who are strong advocates for small and underrepresented businesses.

Freeman, who works for Mayor Virg Bernero, was an integral part of DU’s new Lansing campus grand opening by helping to create awareness and being a strong DU supporter in the community.

Michigan Women’s Foundation recognizes women in healthcare

In April, the Michigan Women’s Foundation held their annual luncheon honoring Michigan’s 2014 Women of Achievement and Courage. This award is given to the women who are helping transform Michigan to achieve empowerment and eliminate barriers for women and girls. Included in the prestigious group were two proud Davenport alums, Barb Meconis and Ann Vidro.

Meconis (’01), is owner and CEO of Holistic Care Approach, a natural healing center located in northeast Grand Rapids. She also recently joined the DU Alumni Association Board.

Vidro (’96) is the Chief Financial Officer and Co-Owner of Creative Studio Promotions. She also continues to be a part of the DU family as a member of the Alumni Association Board.

Also honored at the event was DU Board of Trustees member Carol Van Andel, who received the distinguished Trillium Lifetime Achievement Award.

Alum and Board member honored as part of “Most Influential Women in West Michigan”

A biennial tradition that began in 1997, the Grand Rapids Business Journal named the “50 Most Influential Women in West Michigan” for 2014 and Mandee Rick, ’04 DU alum and Alumni Association Board member, along with Meg Goebel, DU Foundation Board member, were awarded the high honor.

Chosen out of 110 nominations, Rick is widely known not only for her commitment and dedication to Davenport and the West Michigan community but also for her professional expertise as the Senior VP and Portfolio Management Team Leader at Huntington Bank.

A distinguished member of the university’s Foundation Board, Goebel is President and CEO of the Paul Goebel Group. She is a strong and enthusiastic advocate for the West Michigan community and dedicates her time to helping others grow and succeed at DU and other non-profits.
Science guy earned his MBA to create the perfect mix

Back in 2000, Jim Ayres was the Manager of Beauty Product Development at Amway and looking for a challenge. Encouraged by his wife and motivated by a desire to continually grow and learn, he looked into MBA programs. Coming from a biology/chemistry background, Ayres knew he needed additional leadership and management skills to meet his career goals.

Faced with numerous school options to choose from, Ayres decided to continue his education at Davenport University.

“The decision was pretty easy actually. Davenport was more accommodating and really wanted me as a student,” stated Ayres. “They tailored the program and its design adapted to my lifestyle. As a Manager at Amway, I was traveling internationally extensively, and DU enabled me to continue my career and get my degree.”

A member of one of the first MBA cohorts at DU, Ayres was impressed with the program and the outstanding faculty. The academic curriculum tied in to the faculty’s real-world experience provided invaluable lessons and learning opportunities.

Now the Managing Director of Amway North America, Ayres credits his career success to the skills he learned in the classroom interacting with his peers and learning from the faculty.

“The class structure, group discussions and group projects really helped make me a better person and a better leader,” said Ayres. “I learned a lot about myself and I learned how to work with different types of people from a wide variety of backgrounds. Being in a global business, that knowledge was crucial for my career.”

Giving back and making a difference in the community is also a passion for Ayres. Having volunteered with Special Olympics Michigan (SOMI) for almost 30 years, Ayres is currently Chairman of the Board for the organization. He also serves as a board member with the Mental Health Foundation and is involved in many community initiatives.

His key advice to others looking to propel their career and be successful?

“Know yourself. If you don’t know yourself, how do you lead other people?”
DU alum takes wild journey to Australia and New Zealand on quest to visit all seven continents

2013 Davenport University Outstanding Young Alumni Award recipient Bradley Bultman ('07) made it his goal to visit all seven continents by the time he’s 30 years old. In March, he knocked #5 off the list as he visited Australia and New Zealand.

When Major League Baseball (MLB) announced the 2014 MLB regular season would kick off in Sydney in a game that matched up the Los Angeles Dodgers and the Arizona Diamondbacks, he immediately booked his trip. Brad noted that Australians embraced the American game of baseball, with more than 76,000 attending the two-game series, and the Dodgers swept both games.

While in Sydney, Brad also visited the famed Taronga Zoo, where he played with, fed, held, petted and/or walked tigers, cheetahs, koalas, kangaroos, crocodiles, lemur monkeys, rhinos, giraffes, red pandas, snakes and many more exotic animals.

Brad also visited multiple local beaches, surfed for the first time, climbed to the top of the iconic 440-foot Harbour Bridge and enjoyed many culinary experiences. In fact, the “Harbour City” moved to the top of his list of favorite cities in the world, which is high praise considering the number he’s visited during his travels to 25 countries thus far.

Before arriving in Australia, Brad stopped in Auckland, New Zealand, where he visited Waiheke Island — known as “The Island of Wine” — and hiked to numerous wineries. “It’s an absolutely gorgeous and fun place to vacation,” said Brad. “New Zealand has gorgeous coastlines, and the lifestyle is very laid back and relaxed.”

Thankful for the opportunity to take in many different sights, sounds and cultural experiences on his journey, Brad already has his sights on Africa later this year and Antarctica next spring, completing his quest to visit all of the continents of the world before his 30th birthday on April 15, 2015.
Over the past year, DU has established regional Alumni Ambassadors consisting of staff volunteers at each campus throughout Michigan. The Alumni Ambassadors created and developed campus-specific regional councils for alumni who want to stay connected and engaged after they complete their programs of study.

The Alumni Ambassadors and Alumni Councils were created to expand the reach of DU’s Alumni Association to its constituents throughout the state, extending the Association’s offerings and programming to a bigger audience.

The Alumni Ambassador and Alumni Council outreach program is designed to assist alumni with their needs after graduation. The Alumni Association values the importance of direct interaction with alums, and this program helps make that possible throughout the state.

Based on where you are located throughout Michigan, there is a good chance that an Alumni Council is near you, ready to serve you and your friends and family by holding events, offering networking opportunities as well as leadership possibilities through volunteering. You may request a seat on the Council or simply participate in alumni programming near one of our campuses.

Please visit DUalum.com and click on the “Stay Connected” tab to view additional information about the Alumni Ambassadors and Regional Alumni Councils, and to discover ways in which you can get involved with your local group. If you have any questions on the overall program, please contact David Tyler, Assistant Director of Alumni and Donor Relations, david.tyler@davenport.edu.

Regional Alumni Councils allow extensive alumni outreach

DU’s Young Alumni Council meets once a month to provide social and professional networking opportunities for recent graduates. The Council’s mission is to engage as many DU young alumni as possible and continue to provide access to all of the university’s rich resources that could be of assistance as recent graduates begin or continue in their professional careers.

The Young Alumni Council welcomes all graduates who have recently received a degree or completed a program at the institution or those who are 40 years old and under. However, the Council encourages engagement from alumni of all demographic sectors and meets on the first Monday of each month at 5:30 p.m. in the Greater Grand Rapids area.

Please connect with the Young Alumni Council by emailing David Tyler at David.Tyler@davenport.edu for additional information, and visit DUalum.com to learn more.

The Young Alumni Council recently established formal positions and appointed a Council member to serve in each. The appointed officials are as follows:
- Chair: Jaime Van Essen ’08
- Vice-Chair: Leandra Williams ’12
- Secretary: Emily Rosenzweig ’10

The regional Alumni Councils:
- Great Lakes Regional Council (Midland/Saginaw)
- Mid-Michigan Regional Council (Lansing)
- Flint Regional Council
- SE Michigan Regional Council (Warren/Livonia)
- SW Michigan Regional Council (Battle Creek/Kalamazoo)
- Holland Regional Council
- Traverse City Regional Council
Looking back while looking forward

Davenport University was officially established on Jan. 25, 1866, as Grand Rapids Business College. The story of how it acquired the 'Davenport' name occurred in the school’s near-collapse almost 45 years later. Struggling with enrollment, debt and leadership transitions, the enterprise had recently changed its name to Valley City Commercial School. It also had added a new instructor: 25-year-old Michael Edward Davenport, a Ferris graduate hired to teach penmanship, bookkeeping and several other subjects.

Late in the fall of 1910, M.E. Davenport, pictured above, arrived for work as usual at Valley City Commercial School to a scene of confusion and disorder. Students and staff milled in the hallways amid rumors of bankruptcy and unexpected closure. Since the school’s Managing Director was nowhere on the premises that morning (and in fact never returned to the school after that day), no “official” explanation was available — but apparently he had decided to cease operations, leaving the students and faculty stranded mid-term.

Abandoned by its leader, with its staff inclined to follow suit, Valley City Commercial School appeared to be in its final hours.

Desperate to finish their courses, M.E. Davenport’s students begged him to stay until the end of the fall term.

Valley City had only two dozen remaining students, three faculty members (including Davenport), and a $5,000 debt — not a paltry amount in that day. Creditors stood ready to repossess the classroom typewriters. The faculty hadn’t been paid in months; neither had the electric bill.

If destinies sometimes pivot on the decisions of an instant, the story of what would become today’s Davenport University began on that day in 1910, when 25-year-old Michael Davenport agreed to take over.

Under his management (assisted by his brother and later his new wife Mable Engle) Valley City not only would survive, but also dominate. By the time Valley City celebrated its 50th year in 1916, the school was solvent in terms of cash and students.

Before the decade ended, the school would also be known by the name it would carry forward as it grew to become one of the most successful independent business schools in the country: Davenport.

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.
Professional

**Marvin K. Ballinger**, '84 BBA Data Processing Management, retired with distinction after 32 years of service as a civilian employee at the U.S. Army – Tank Automotive Command in Warren.

**Amy Bergy**, '13 ABA, is an Administrative Assistant at Grand Flower Growers in Wayland.

**Longin Kloc**, '10 BBA Marketing & '14 MBA Strategic Management, is the General Manager of Operations and Director of Marketing for Salamander Technologies in Traverse City.

**Gary Lalicki**, '01 MBA Strategic Management, was promoted to Executive Vice President of Quality, Training and Product Design at Health Management Systems of America in Detroit.

**Carlos Sanchez**, '07 BBA International Business, was recently appointed as Interim Executive Director for the Hispanic Center of Western Michigan.

**Jennifer Sutherland**, '13 EMBA, was recently promoted to Implementation Manager with the Sales Force Development team at Blue Cross Blue Shield of MI in Detroit.

**Val Norberry VanOrden**, '78 Receptionist/Typist, is now working at the U.S. 131 Flea Market in Three Rivers selling her house portraits and calligraphy art.

**Natalie Waleed**, '03 BBA Management, is now an Account Manager with Federal Mogul Corporation in Detroit.

Honors/Awards

**Lori Baker**, '81 AAS Business Administration and Accounting, is a Partner/Shareholder at Baker Holtz, a CPA firm that was recently nominated for a Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce EPIC Award for Small Business of the Year.

**EJ Grochowalski**, '14 BS Finance, recently began an internship with Incapital, a finance company owned by Tom Rickets, CEO of the Chicago Cubs.

**Melissa Michalski (née Gwizdala)**, '99 AAS Nursing & '04 BS Nursing, completed her Doctorate of Nursing Practice at Capella University.

**Natalie Waleed**, '03 BBA Management, was the featured speaker at the Michigan Roundtable for Diversity and Inclusion’s Health Stories project.

Deaths

**Jamie Ballard (Gath/Martinez)**, '92 ABA, '04 AAS & '05 BS, passed away on March 2, 2014.

**Diane Jean (Kauffman) Boyer**, '96 BBA, passed away on May 1, 2014.

**Tracey Butler**, '06 BS, passed away on May 27, 2014.

**Richard James Enger, Jr.**, '69 BS Management, passed away on Dec. 5, 2013. He graduated from the Detroit College of Business in Dearborn and was editor of the *DCB Falcon Newspaper* from 1965 to 1969.

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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
Lois Eschels, ’41 Diploma, passed away on April 10, 2014.


Herman Schripsema, ’51 Diploma, passed away on March 5, 2014.

Nicole (Seward) Thibert, ’99 BAS, passed away on March 9, 2014.

Mary Montie, ’85 BBA, passed away on May 16, 2014.

In memoriam:
Kevin O’Halla

Kevin O’Halla, a strong DU supporter and former employee, passed away in January following a two-year battle with cancer. He is survived by his wife of 33 years, Debbie, and his children Alison and Brian.

O’Halla worked at Davenport for 26 years and served in a variety of roles at the university. He began his career in 1983 as a Programmer/Analyst and advanced in Information Technology, eventually serving as VP for IT Services/CIO from 2000 – 2007. During that time, he led DU through the successful conversion to the Banner Enterprise Resource Planning System. In January of 2008, he was appointed Executive Vice President for Enrollment and Student Services, a role he filled for the next two years before his DU retirement. O’Halla later continued his higher education career as Chief Information Officer at Grand Rapids Community College where he was employed since 2010.

A lifelong advocate of education and helping students succeed, O’Halla generously endowed two scholarships to benefit DU students for many years to come.

Alumni Awards Celebration: October 9, 2014
6:00 p.m. – Registration
6:30 p.m. – Welcome/Ceremony Begins
7:30 p.m. – Strolling Dinner and Reception
Mark your calendar for Thursday, Oct. 9, 2014, as Davenport University will celebrate its alumni by hosting the 2014 Alumni Awards Celebration. Each year, your Alumni Association honors deserving alumni for their professional accomplishments, contributions in the community and support of Davenport’s mission, vision and values. Register online at davenport.edu/AAC.

Homecoming/Tailgate: October 10, 2014
The tradition continues on Friday, October 10, 2014, as Davenport University hosts Arkansas State in a cross-nation rugby battle under the lights at the W.A. Lettinga campus in Grand Rapids. The festivities include kids activities, Women’s Rugby vs Calvin College (4:30 p.m.), a tailgate (5:30 p.m.–7:30 p.m.), and Men’s Rugby vs Arkansas State (7:30 p.m.)! Register online at davenport.edu/homecoming.

Look for more information, including how to register for these great events, at DUalum.com.
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W.A. Lettinga Campus

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

Homecoming
Friday, October 10, 2014
4:30 p.m. – Women’s Rugby vs. Calvin College
5:30 p.m. – Tailgate
7:30 p.m. – Men’s Rugby vs. Arkansas State
W.A. Lettinga Campus

Visit davenport.edu/homecoming.