Earlier this year, I was pleased to represent Davenport University at an awards program at Frederik Meijer Gardens hosted by the Grand Rapids Business Journal. The awards recognized the 2014 Newsmakers in a variety of categories, with Davenport honored in the Education category. The award was a good opportunity to reflect on the amazing year we had in 2014 and the great strides this University has made since announcing Vision 2015 back in 2010.

The Newsmaker Award specifically cited a few of the major announcements made by DU last year, including the development of our College of Urban Education, the new Competency-based MBA program and the DU Employment Guarantee we are offering to Accounting students. These announcements demonstrate Davenport’s ongoing commitment to innovation in response to marketplace needs coupled with a high level of accountability to our students.

Extraordinary teamwork, expertise and effort by faculty and staff across the University bring these newsworthy initiatives to life. Over the past five years, Davenport’s Vision 2015 journey has included a host of activities that resulted in improved student success, a 110-percent increase in our graduation rate, the highest levels ever for student and graduate satisfaction and more. We launched a new campus in Lansing and enhancements at most of our existing campuses, including new libraries, student lounges, and labs for health and sciences programs. In addition, annual giving by employees, alumni and friends is up, helping DU increase its endowment by 50-percent.

In the next few months, we will announce the overall results of our ambitious Vision 2015, even as we share what the future of DU will look like through the achievement of Vision 2020. Final touches are being made to this long-range plan, and we look forward to your active involvement and engagement as the plan moves forward in the years to come.

Chris Hughes and his outstanding soccer squad understand the importance of hard work and commitment to achieving goals. Congratulations to our Men’s Soccer team for delivering Davenport’s National Team Championship. We look forward to more championship moments on and off the field as we continue to grow and excel on all fronts.

Thank you for your continued support and your commitment to the Davenport team! Go Panthers!

Sincerely,

Richard J. Pappas, Ed.D.
President

Newsmaker of the Year

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In an impressive match against Texas at Brownsville, the Men’s Soccer team trailed 1-0 almost the entire match until tying the score in the 76th minute of the game with a penalty kick by Junior Dzenan Catic. Senior Chase Burgess then took a header off a corner kick 2:04 into extra time to seal DU’s first-ever NAIA national title as a team with a 2-1 overtime win.

Davenport is the first school in the state of Michigan to clinch an NAIA Men’s Soccer national title. In fact, it’s the first outright national soccer championship on the men’s side at any level — including NCAA DI, DII, or DIII.

“Year 2014 was a special year for us…it started in August, and it was a long season. We had some spectacular seniors on the squad really helped us out,” stated Head Coach Chris Hughes. “The team really came together toward the end. They played as one and believed in each other, and that’s how we won.”

“Our Men’s Soccer program is an NAIA Scholar Team. I am very proud of these young men who academically do very well in the classroom as well as athletically on the field, which is very important,” said Athletics Director Paul Lowden. “They’re learning to be the successful leaders of tomorrow.”

Chris Hughes named National Coach of the Year

After his team won the University’s first team NAIA national title, Head Coach Chris Hughes was named the National Soccer Coaches Association/FieldTurf NAIA Coach of the Year!

“This is an honor and a true testament to the other coaches and the young men on the team,” said Hughes. “Without them, it would be very difficult to win this award. I’ve got an excellent group around me, and this is very special.”

In his third year at the helm of Davenport’s Men’s Soccer team, Hughes piloted the Panthers to a program-best 22-3-1 overall record, a second straight Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference (WHAC) Tournament title and, of course, the national championship. In 13 years as a head coach, Hughes is 204-62-24, having picked up his 200th career win with the WHAC Tournament Championship last November.
Major League Soccer drafts DU Junior

Davenport University’s Dzenan Catic, the reigning NAIA National Player of the Year, will begin his career in Major League Soccer with the Philadelphia Union after they selected him as the 31st overall pick during the MLS SuperDraft Selection in December.

“When Catic fell into our lap, we were shocked,” Union Head Coach Jim Curtin told MLSsoccer.com. “That part worked out very well. He’s a guy who brings some size; very good in front of the goal. Talking with a lot of the coaches at the combine, they saw him as one of the top players – not just the top forwards.”

Catic is the seventh player to represent the NAIA in the MLS SuperDraft since 2008. He is also the first DU Panther to be drafted by any top-tier professional sports league.

In just two years with Davenport, Catic set the school record in goals (63) and points (140). He also notched 14 assists. He took part leading Davenport to the program’s first NAIA national title, recording a hat trick in the semifinal and the match-tying goal in the championship.

Team talents shine bright

Dino Duratovic

As a senior on the soccer team, Dino Duratovic transferred to Davenport from Calvin College because of Head Coach Chris Hughes. Having played for Hughes in the national championship at Calvin, Duratovic saw huge opportunities at DU.

“It was a really easy transfer, and everyone at DU is so friendly and helpful,” stated Duratovic. “I’ve been able to make connections with professionals in my degree field that have really helped me advance toward my goals.”

Pursuing a Bachelor’s of Science in Health Service Administration, Duratovic looks forward to participating in a future internship.

Omar Mansah

Omar Mansah, a junior on the soccer team, also came to Davenport because of Coach Hughes. Mansah played soccer at Union High School in Grand Rapids and with the Alliance Soccer Club.

Originally hailing from Liberia, Mansah immigrated to the United States when he was 11 years old. Although English isn’t his first, second, third or even fourth language, Mansah is excelling in his international business degree, having earned All-Academic WHAC honors in 2014.

It was an emotional season for Mansah. Not only was he promoted to Team Captain, but he missed the first two games of the NAIA National Championship in Florida because he took the U.S. Citizenship test to become a citizen!
More than 70 football student-athletes signed for fall

Since he was hired last May, Davenport Head Football Coach Lou Esposito has worked tirelessly laying the foundation of the newly-created program. Along with hiring two coaches, Steve Casula and Greg Sullivan, Esposito has signed more than 70 players for the inaugural season in 2016.

Casula, who came to Davenport from Colgate University and Western Michigan University (WMU), will serve as the program’s Offensive Coordinator as well as oversee recruiting efforts. Sullivan, also from WMU, will work as an Assistant Coach alongside Casula and will primarily focus on the quarterbacks.

All incoming student-athletes will be redshirted during the 2015-16 academic year and will have all four years of eligibility available when the team takes the field in the fall of 2016. In the meantime, Esposito plans on his team doing workouts and drills as well as playing several intrasquad games throughout the upcoming season.

“The next phase of our recruiting is to continue to build team and program chemistry,” said Esposito. “Because we have recruited so well locally, our culture has already begun to be built. All of the high school coaches we have come into contact with during this recruiting cycle have been great. We are so fortunate to be in an area with not only excellent players but also unbelievable coaches. They have been vital to our success.”

Farmers Insurance Athletic Complex Update

Expansion of the athletic complex to accommodate track and field, as well as football, rugby and soccer, are scheduled to finish on-time and on-budget. Substantial completion is set for June 2015.

The complete site has been rough graded, with the entire five-foot retaining wall around the track area completed. The building that will house concessions, ticket sales and restrooms is completely enclosed with the interior in the finishing stages.

Photos taken by Rockford Construction.
Staff Sgt. Jason Bos came to Davenport University in 2013 eager to start the Business Management program. After serving in the U.S. Army for over eight years, Jason was ready to get back into civilian life and focus on his career. As many veterans know, however, acclimating back into civilian life is not always easy. In April 2014, Jason was reunited with one of his closest comrades, Cila, the explosives dog that changed his life for the better.

In 2008, Jason was accepted into the Specialized Search Dog course where he trained with dogs. Jason and seven-year-old Cila clicked in 2008 when trainers suggested he try working with the dog because she wouldn’t listen to anyone else. Jason and Cila deployed together on 100 missions in Iraq between 2008 and 2009. Those missions included searching for weapons caches and improvised explosive devices (IEDs), and conducting VIP searches for high ranking military members. After the missions in Iraq, the pair continued to work in the U.S. until Jason retired from the Army in 2012.

Cila was assigned to a new handler in Germany whom Jason stayed in contact with through Facebook. When Cila was retired from active duty in early 2014, she was able to come home to Jason in America thanks to the Mission K9 Rescue and the American Humane Association.

On April 30, 2014, Jason waited anxiously to reunite with Cila at the Chicago O’Hare International Airport, where she would arrive from Germany. After having not worked together for several years, Jason worried Cila would not remember him. As soon as she saw Jason though, she jumped and climbed all over him and rolled on her back for a belly rub — making it clear she hadn’t forgotten him at all.

Now that Jason and Cila have retired from military work, Jason will continue to pursue his degree in Business Management while Cila will pursue relaxing on the couch.
Connecting military training to IT education

To read a CISCO story about the two brothers, visit:
http://csr.cisco.com/casestudy/education-impact-veterans

Brothers David and Warren Neal joined the U.S. Army where they became networking specialists while serving in Iraq. On Warren’s first 12-month deployment in 2005, he served on the battalion commander’s personal security team, handling radio communications for four Humvees traveling from base to base. With his success in not letting a single radio go down, Warren was assigned to a rapid-response team for six months as its communications lead. During his second deployment, Warren maintained phone systems and networks for a technology control center.

David, who was inspired by his brother’s success in the U.S. Army, headed to Iraq only three months after graduating high school. There he began installing communication systems on board Black Hawks, providing commanding generals the ability to relay strategies across the war-torn battlefield in real-time.

All this real-life experience made it easy for David and Warren to transition into the College of Technology at Davenport University. Because they had experience as network specialists in Iraq, they started their program with more than 15 credits, representing more than a semester’s worth of work.

Just eight months into the program at DU, David was interviewed and hired by NetSource One, a technology solutions company that works with hundreds of clients in Michigan. Six months later, Warren also interviewed and joined his brother at NetSource One. Both worked full-time as communications engineers while finishing up their bachelor’s degrees at night. David and Warren graduated in December 2014 with a Bachelor of Science in Networking Technology.

Helping those who served

Davenport University students and veterans, like Larry Corser, share their experience transitioning back into civilian life in a video that was produced for Veterans Day. It highlights how scholarship dollars given to veterans help them bridge the gap between leaving the military and finding a job. To view the video, scan the QR code with a QR app on your smart phone or visit http://bit.ly/veteransvideo. More than 600 veterans attend Davenport. If you are interested in donating to provide them with the resources, support and advocacy needed to succeed in higher education, visit davenport.edu/supportSVA.
Honoring Martin Luther King, Jr.

DU’s Flint Campus hosted an MLK, Jr. Day of Service where volunteers made 577 survival bracelets for active military personnel and first responders. More than 300 were donated to Operation Gratitude for shipment overseas. The remaining 200 bracelets were donated to local fire departments, police officers and emergency medical technicians (EMTs). A total of 202 hours of volunteer time were dedicated to this project. The event was sponsored by a grant from The Michigan Community Service Commission, Michigan Nonprofit Association, Volunteer Centers of Michigan, The League of Michigan and Michigan Campus Compact.

Holland staff, students and faculty honored MLK, Jr. Day by participating in a service project. Twelve attendees worked together to make 10 fleece-tied blankets that were donated to Holland City Mission, a non-profit organization that offers overnight shelter and assistance to homeless men, women, children and in-tact families in West Michigan.

The W.A. Lettinga Campus hosted its annual Silent March and celebration that included reflections from students, faculty and staff and keynote speaker Bridget Clark Whitney, Executive Director of Kid’s Food Basket, a nonprofit organization in Grand Rapids that focuses solely on childhood hunger. Staff and faculty also participated in a service project at the David D. Hunting YMCA in downtown Grand Rapids that included crafts, games, reading and other activities with children.

The Livonia Campus participated in the 30th annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Peace Walk with the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Task Force, Inc. The walk began at 9:30 a.m. at Hope United Methodist Church in Southfield and concluded with a program at the Southfield Pavilion.

The Warren Campus was a Silver sponsor of the 2015 MLK, Jr. Holiday Celebration of Macomb County at Dakota High School. Davenport students, faculty and staff heard a presentation about Dr. King and his legacy, followed by a dinner. During dinner, participants were able to interact with other educators, students, business leaders and elected officials.
Kalamazoo

On Wednesday, March 4, the Kalamazoo Campus’ T. F. Reed, Jr. Memorial Library sponsored Jerry Dennis, author of *The Living Great Lakes*, Kalamazoo County’s Reading Together selection for 2015. Mr. Dennis shared “A Conversation about the Craft and Business of Writing” with staff, faculty, students and local community members. His book has won many awards and is frequently taught at colleges and universities. In his nearly 30 years as a freelance writer, Dennis has emerged as one of America’s most celebrated writers about nature and the outdoors. Among Jerry’s awards are Michigan Author of the Year and the Sigurd Olson Nature Writing Award.

Lansing

The Lansing Campus is proud to recognize Business Administration/Management student Maria Habba for receiving the 2014 Merit Award for Outstanding Achievement and Service to the Tri-County Regional Planning Commission (TCRPC)! Maria is celebrating her 14th year with the Commission, an agency whose members include area municipalities. TCRPC provides planning services and technical planning expertise in transportation, economic development, environmental protection and land use.

Midland

The second annual Food, Fun and Shopping fundraising event was held on the Midland Campus Dec. 8–11. The event consisted of lunch and dinner served each day, various vendors on campus selling their products, as well as a week-long raffle. More than 30 raffle prizes were donated by vendors and community businesses. The total raised for the Midland Campus Emergency Fund was $1,178. The fund aids students who may have an immediate need or financial hardship that is beyond the scope of financial aid.

Saginaw

For the sixth year in a row, the Medical Assistant Club in Saginaw, working in collaboration with the Student Nurses Association in Midland, collected new and gently used infant pajamas and caps for premature infants admitted to the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at Covenant Healthcare Saginaw. The drive brought in more than 30 sets of donated pajamas.

Traverse City

Students from the Traverse City Campus honored Veterans Day by writing to veterans and thanking them for their service. Additionally, students participated in DU’s Gratitude Week and thanked the many DU scholarship donors for helping students achieve their academic goals.
As many of you know, I came to Davenport from another university in another state just two years ago. While no stranger to higher education, I was a newcomer to this institution and to this community. Both, however, have impressed me greatly!

A key reason I joined Davenport was the ambitious vision that had been created for the University, calling for improvements in student outcomes and in just about every imaginable way a college can be measured. You have heard about the many ways DU has been able to improve upon student retention and graduation rates, improve satisfaction of students and graduates and improve our graduates’ ability to gain a career.

For the Alumni & Development team, improving outcomes means increasing alumni engagement and increasing donations to provide scholarships for students, to support our colleges and to help build our endowment. Our endowment lasts in perpetuity, providing scholarship support for students into the future, long after the initial gift is made. I am pleased to say that last year was the most successful fundraising year ever for DU and that the endowment has grown by 50-percent from five years ago. THANK YOU SO MUCH for your generosity! Your gifts made this possible!

Your support is helping DU achieve its mission of excellent preparation for students for their future careers in business, technology, health and urban education. You are helping Starr, mother of six, gain her degree in Finance, while serving as a peer mentor assisting other DU students. You are making it possible for Jon, a sophomore, to advance his interest and skills in technology. You are helping Veronica, a senior majoring in Nursing, know that in just 51 days (as of this writing), she will accomplish her dream of becoming a nurse.

These three students are all recipients of one of Davenport’s endowed scholarships, given by the late Peter C. Cook, DU alumnus, and his late wife Pat. I recently attended a luncheon with these students, a representative of the Cook Foundation and other Alumni & Development staff, and heard their inspiring stories first-hand. I have always believed that one of the key reasons people give to any cause is to positively change lives. I hope that knowing your gifts assist deserving students like Starr, Jon and Veronica achieve their goals and dreams brings you great satisfaction! You are making a real difference in their lives.

Davenport has been making a difference in student lives for nearly 150 years. Next year, we celebrate this institution’s 150th Anniversary, and we want you to be a part of that celebration! Many events will be held during the spring, summer and fall months where I hope we can connect and discover how DU can best help you and, of course, how you can best plug in to help DU. In the meantime, please know how much we appreciate all you have done and continue to do to make this University a place where students “Get Where the World Is Going.”
Farmers Insurance presents Scholarship for Excellence in Risk Management and Insurance

Davenport representatives joined Farmers Insurance executives at the company’s West Michigan campus on November 21, 2014, to present Davenport student Erik Schmidt with the Farmers Insurance Scholarship for Excellence in Risk Management and Insurance. Erik is enrolled in Davenport’s Risk Management and Insurance specialty BBA program, which helps prepare students for one of the largest industry sectors in the economy.

In his essay to apply for the scholarship, Erik said he chose to pursue the Risk Management and Insurance program at Davenport because it offered a great way to focus his education for a future career in insurance while he gained leadership skills.

Steve Boshoven, President of Farmers’ Foremost Specialty business unit based in Grand Rapids, said Erik was “one of those rare people who are ahead of the game,” telling him the “excellent education you are receiving at Davenport will take you far in your career.”

“Insurance and risk management are at the very center of an expanding financial services segment,” said Mark Cusack, University of Farmers Executive Director. “When you consider the jobs employers will need to fill in the future, the majority will require knowledge workers, including those skilled in the insurance industry. Farmers can always benefit from employees with an education that includes insurance knowledge, as can other companies.”

Because of you — Annual Giving update

Every year, alumni and friends express their support of the University through gifts to Davenport. These gifts are put to use to create special opportunities for students, provide scholarship support and much more. This year, like others, is shaping up to be another successful year thanks to many of our alumni, supporters and friends.

Thanks to a robust fall and winter, Davenport is on pace to have one of the largest number of alumni donors in the past decade. This says a lot about the belief in the value of a Davenport degree. A student phone-a-thon was held on campus, which was very successful reaching out to alumni and friends for support. The phone-a-thon allowed many students the opportunity to see first-hand the positive effects that alumni and friend support can provide.

Annual gifts touch every student, every faculty member and every corner of the university. Your overwhelming generosity will help more students receive scholarship support during next academic year, and we are most grateful.

If you would like to make a donation in support of the students at Davenport University, visit davenport.edu/gift or contact Nick Glaser, Director of Annual Giving, at nglaser@davenport.edu.
Showing appreciation to donors

For many, the Thanksgiving season is a time of gratitude and appreciation for the good things in our lives. At Davenport, one of the things we are most grateful for is the tremendous generosity of the friends, alumni and employees who support DU scholarships and programs. In recognition of all their support makes possible, we celebrated the first Davenport Gratitude Week this past November. Across the state, students at every campus were asked to take a moment and write a note of thanks to a DU donor. By the end of the week, we had collected nearly 300 notes of gratitude that will be sent out to our donors this spring. We are looking forward to making Gratitude Week an annual tradition with even more ways to say thanks.

Department of Defense provides funding for students

For two consecutive years, Davenport University’s College of Technology has received grant funding from the United States Department of Defense (DoD) Information Assurance Scholarship Program, a total of $135,189.

“This grant reaffirms the caliber of our programs and the graduates that we produce,” said College of Technology Department Chair Lonnie Decker.

Since 2011, Davenport has been recognized as a National Center for Academic Excellence in Information Assurance Education by the National Security Agency and the Department of Homeland Security. With Bachelor degrees in Information Assurance, Network Security, Digital Forensics, Computer Science (Biometrics), and Technology Project Management (Information Security) and a Master of Science in Information Assurance, Davenport’s programs prepare today’s students to become tomorrow’s leaders of Information Assurance and Digital Forensics.

The majority of grant funds were dedicated for full scholarships, which include tuition, books, fees and stipends for living expenses, for Davenport juniors and seniors who were pre-selected by the National Security Agency and their partner agencies based on the degree being sought, GPA and demonstration of leadership. As a condition of the scholarship, for each year they receive the award, students commit to a year of service with the Department of Defense upon graduation as well as an internship during the scholarship year. This service to the DoD provides the student with a unique opportunity to immediately transfer his or her knowledge-base and skill sets into real employment experience.

In addition, some of the funds were used to purchase software and mobile equipment to create a Mobile Forensics Lab at Davenport where students, as well as community partners, can participate in real-world digital forensics experiments. Students use various mobile apparatuses such as iPhones, tablets and Blackberry devices to learn how to extract digital forensics used in criminal, civil and corporate investigations.

During a recent Making Connections with Technology event, the lab was used to inform community high school students partnering with Davenport how data can be extracted and analyzed from their mobile devices.

This grant is a great opportunity for students and the community to get actual hands-on practical experience with digital forensics in the ever-changing mobile environment.
Outreach to the Lone Star state

Not long ago, our office received an email from Ashley Jones, a second-grade teacher at Jack Frost Elementary School in Georgetown, Texas, with a simple request: “Will Davenport be willing to be in my lineup of colleges that will be promoted weekly as part of Project 2025?”

Project 2025 (the year her second-grade class heads off to college) was developed to promote national colleges and universities at Jack Frost to expand the horizons of students who don’t see much outside a 10-mile radius of Georgetown. The project entails searching the school on the Internet, mapping its location on the classroom map, researching famous alumni, figuring out the mascot and more.

The DU Alumni Association was pleased to send a package of goodies to share with all 22 scholars in Ms. Jones’ class. The class photo right, sent in appreciation of DU’s participation, shows the impact Davenport University has on individuals over 1,200 miles away and reminds me of the national reach we have.

Stay tuned for additional information in the next issue of DU Review about the impact Davenport graduates are making across the country.

Call for Alumni Award nominations

The Alumni & Development Office is seeking nominations for the 2015 Alumni Awards that recognize deserving Davenport graduates who have shown outstanding accomplishments and demonstrated leadership and dedication in the fields of business, technology and health.

Three of the nomination categories include a graduate from each college — 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 within 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 recognizes a graduate who has accomplished early achievements in his or her chosen field, demonstrated innovative and responsible professional leadership and 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 deserving of these honors, complete the online nomination form at davenport.edu/AlumniAwards by May 29. For more information, contact the Alumni & Development Office at 866-248-0012.
A commitment to ministry and living her dream

In 1967, a small coffeehouse called “The Dégagé” was created in the heart of downtown Grand Rapids. College students came to listen to music, talk and enjoy a cup of coffee. Today, the ministry no longer looks like the quiet college coffeehouse of the ’60s, but it still offers a home to many.

Marge Palmerlee, a dedicated volunteer at Dégagé Ministries, supported the mission of the organization: to ensure that every man and woman they serve knows that he or she is not alone. As a mother of two and a full-time employee in accounting at Rogers Department Store, Marge knew there was something else out there for her to give back to the community.

Hy Berkowitz, founder of Rogers Department Store and then board member of Davenport University, encouraged Marge to go back to school. With the flexibility of daytime and evening classes, Marge graduated in 1995 with her Associate degree in Accounting from Davenport. After a successful career at Rogers Department Store, Marge saw an opportunity of a lifetime at the organization she loved. Marge officially started at Dégagé Ministries as the Ministry Coordinator in 1997. One year later, Marge was named Executive Director. In this role, she has used her educational background to help grow the organization to serve close to 500 people a day with an annual budget of more than $1 million. Dégagé Ministries provides immediate needs such as food, hot showers, prescription co-pays, a mailing address, storage for belongings and overnight shelter for women.

“I am blessed to be able to live my dream and serve those in our community,” said Palmerlee. “Often, when someone is homeless or in a situation they didn’t expect, they feel so alone. It’s a great feeling to be able to come alongside them and walk with them through whatever journey they’re experiencing.”

If you are interested in learning more about Dégagé Ministries, visit www.degageministries.org.
World War II Vet grateful for the G.I. Bill allowing him to attend college

At 93-years old, Davenport alum Edward DeKoster looks fondly back on his time spent studying at DU and is grateful for the reason he was able to attend — the G.I. Bill.

In 1942, one year after Pearl Harbor, DeKoster decided to join the army. As a young man, he received training in engineering as part of the Army Specialized Training Program at Louisiana State University and Baylor University. After the invasion of Normandy on June 6, 1944, DeKoster was shipped to Europe to join in the combat. While convoying to Europe, DeKoster and his infantry were torpedoed, which forced them to land in England, where they stayed for two weeks. DeKoster went on to serve in France and Belgium as a part of the 99th Infantry Division.

On December 16, 1944, the German army launched their last major offensive that was intended to cut through the Allied forces to turn the tide of World War II. The battle that ensued in the heavily forested Ardennes Mountains of Belgium is known as The Battle of the Bulge because the Germans created a “bulge,” by surrounding the area and cutting through the defensive line. DeKoster and his infantry were caught in the middle of the battle where it is estimated that, of the 600,000 Allied troops, almost 20,000 were killed, another 20,000 captured and 40,000 wounded. While surrounded by Germans, DeKoster went eight days drinking snow and eating only a Baby Ruth candy bar he had saved in his pocket.

After returning from the war, DeKoster decided to take advantage of the G.I. Bill and go to school. With his sister Hazel already attending the Davenport-McLachlan Institute (what is now Davenport University), DeKoster enrolled in 1946. After graduating in 1948 with a degree in Accounting, DeKoster held multiple jobs in bookkeeping that eventually led him to work for the State of Michigan as an auditor in the Treasury Department.

“If it wasn’t for Davenport, I wouldn’t have had the great jobs I did. I would highly recommend attending DU if people are looking for a quality education that leads to a career,” stated DeKoster.

On October 14, 1950, DeKoster married his sweetheart Kathleen Andres and had eight children. Today, he lives in Grand Rapids, where he recently celebrated his 93rd birthday.
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.

Names and addresses: Davenport in Grand Rapids

In its nearly 150-year history, Davenport University has carried out its educational mission at several locations under several different names. Many buildings or sites were originally built or expanded by Davenport, and two of its former locations — the Ledyard Building and the Heritage Hill District — are listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The Luce Building

In 1866, Grand Rapids Business College held its first classes on the top floor of the Luce Building at the corner of Monroe Street and Ottawa Avenue, which was then called Justice. In the mid-1870s, the school moved into the Ledyard Building, then brand-new at the corner of Pearl and Ottawa. The Luce Building was destroyed by fire in 1902; the 1874 Ledyard Building is the second-oldest commercial building in Grand Rapids still operating today.

215 Sheldon Boulevard

Davenport-McLachlan Institute (DMI) occupied this address at two different times, originally from 1918 until 1924. In 1928, the school constructed a new building on that site, the first built exclusively for Davenport. DMI stayed there until World War II, when students were consolidated on the campus of DMIs affiliate school, University of Grand Rapids, on Robinson Road (this facility was later sold to Aquinas College). Most recently home to Cherry Street Health Services, 215 Sheldon remains an office building today.
EXPLORING OUR PAST

Fulton and Division
Also built by Davenport Institute on a vacant parcel once occupied by the Livingston Hotel, the postwar Art Moderne building combined classrooms with retail space at Grand Rapids’ main intersection. Davenport remained at this location from 1949 until 1968. The building served as headquarters for Junior Achievement from the 1970s until the 1990s, and then stood vacant for many years until it was renovated in 2013 by the architectural firm Tower Pinkster, which occupies the top floor.

Heritage Hill
Davenport College’s first multi-building campus was developed in one of the city’s most distinguished residential neighborhoods, leading the preservation effort for what would become the Heritage Hill historic district. Renovation of prestigious mansions combined with new construction gradually encompassed an entire city block of Fulton Street between College and Prospect avenues. For more than 50 years, from 1958 until 2009, Davenport called Heritage Hill home.

W.A. Lettinga Campus
With land and financial gifts donated by the Wilbur Lettinga, Richard M. DeVos, Jay Van Andel and Frederik Meijer families, in 2005 Davenport University established a new 600-acre campus on Kraft Avenue south of Grand Rapids. Beginning with two original LEED-certified buildings, the campus rapidly grew to include three student residence halls, a Student Center, athletic fields and executive administration facility — and is still growing.

Opposite Page: The Luce building in the 1880s was Davenport’s first home.

This Page, Top to Bottom: 1. The first building at 215 Sheldon. 2. Constructed for DMI, this second building at 215 Sheldon replaced the first and still stands today. 3. 2 Fulton was also built by DMI and is now occupied by Tower Pinkster. Many do not know the original plan allowed the building to expand from two to six stories tall if student enrollment grew large enough, but the school eventually moved instead up Fulton street. 4. The new wing of the Sneden Academic Center was constructed in 1984 on the Heritage Hill campus.
Deaths


Jimmy Angels, ’95 BBA Health Care Administration, passed away on January 11, 2015.

Michael Buza, ’81 BS Management, passed away on September 14, 2013.

Marvin Hall, ’59 Accounting, passed away on January 28, 2015.


Julie Lindstrom, ’88 Accounting Data Processing, passed away on December 26, 2014.

Sharon Schnipke, ’84 Accounting, passed away on December 14, 2014.


Shirley Tillyer, ’46, passed away on January 18, 2015.

Everett VanAllsburg, ’50 AS Business Administration, passed away on January 6, 2015.

Donald Viurens, ’58 Accounting, passed away on January 10, 2015.

Willard Wright, Sr., ’76 AS Management, passed away on January 8, 2015.

Honors/Awards

Brandi Bauer, ’07 MBA Strategic Management, earned her Professional in Human Resources (PHR) designation in December 2014.
Save the dates!

A day at the ballpark
West Michigan Whitecaps vs. Lansing Lugnuts
Friday, May 15
Join West Michigan area alumni for an evening with the West Michigan Whitecaps. Enjoy the great view of the game from the DTE Energy Suite while enjoying ballpark favorites, such as popcorn, hot dogs and ice cold soft drinks.

Lansing Lugnuts vs. Bowling Green Hot Rods
Friday, July 24
Join Lansing area alumni on the all new Miller Lite Party Deck for a fun day at the ballpark. Your ticket includes private seating, food, soft drinks and post-game fireworks!

Great Lakes Loons vs. Lake County Captains
Saturday, July 25
Davenport’s Midland and Saginaw alumni unite to host this fifth annual event. Join us for a fun day at the ballpark atop Lasorda’s Landing. Your ticket includes access to Lasorda’s Landing, food, soft drinks and post-game fireworks!

Scholarship golf outings
SE Michigan Scholarship Golf Outing
Friday, May 29
Join us for the inaugural SE Michigan Scholarship Golf Outing to be held at Fellows Creek Golf Club in Canton, Michigan. Visit davenport.edu/golf for more information.

29th Annual Scholarship Golf Classic
Monday, August 24
Grab your clubs and get your foursome ready for the 29th Annual Scholarship Golf Classic at Egypt Valley Country Club, Grand Rapids. Visit davenport.edu/golf for more information.

Homecoming Week
September 28 – October 3
Davenport University’s annual Homecoming Week will have many activities, including the first ever tailgate and football game in Grand Rapids on Saturday, October 3rd.

Alumni Awards Celebration
Friday, October 2
6:00 p.m.
Robert W. Sneden Center, Lettinga Campus
We hope to see you on this night when DU honors the dedication and achievements of our alumni in many areas.

If you know an alum who should be nominated, please visit davenport.edu/AlumniAwards for more information (also see page 13 for award categories) or contact the Alumni & Development Office at 866-248-0012.
Friday, May 8, 2015
DeVos Place in Grand Rapids

Peter C. Cook Award Honoree:
Ralph Hauenstein
Former journalist, war hero, entrepreneur and philanthropist

Keynote Speaker:
Mitch Albom
Bestselling author, nationally acclaimed newspaper columnist, radio show host and television commentator

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