

DAVENPORT

UNIVERSITY MAGAZINE



**Scholarship
gifts make
a difference**

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Randolph K. Flechsig

Thank you!

A contribution to Davenport University can be the key to opening the door of opportunity to higher education and a degree that leads to a rewarding career. Thank you for your donations that support so many of our qualified and deserving students.

Your support is helping our students **start, stay and succeed**. In deepest gratitude, I pledge to you a priceless return on your investment. That return is a growing number of talented graduates who will make meaningful and lasting contributions to our community.

In recognition of your generosity, this issue of *Davenport University Magazine* includes a listing of our donors. On behalf of our scholarship recipients and students who benefit in other ways from your contributions, we are truly grateful for each person on that list.

This issue is devoted to stories about donors and the students whose lives are changed by their generosity. I was privileged to participate in a major event profiled in this issue that focuses on serving students: our Foundation Scholarship Dinner. What a thrill to again spend time with talented students at this event and hear them express their heartfelt thanks for helping make their educational and career dreams a reality!

Our students greatly appreciate your support. And they work hard to make sure your support is a smart investment in our future. From all of them and all of us at Davenport University, thank you!

Sincerely,

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If you receive more than one copy of this magazine, please pass it along to a friend.

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On the cover:

DU donors Fred and Bev Braun with Foundation Scholarship recipients (left to right), Jennifer Ewing, Auna Dailey, and J.J. Swain



President Randolph K. Flechsig, Francis Resendes, Wilbur Lettinga, and Sandra and Carl Kiel

Sixth Annual Foundation Scholarship Dinner

Scholarship gifts make a difference

More than 20 scholarship recipients along with 80 donors and guests attended the sixth annual Davenport University Foundation Scholarship Dinner on October 3 at the Egypt Valley Country Club in Grand Rapids.

The Foundation Scholarship Dinner is a unique opportunity for Davenport University Foundation scholarship donors to meet the students who benefit from their gifts, and vice versa. Connecting student scholarship recipients with their benefactors is a very special experience. Donors have the opportunity to see first-hand an excellent return on their investment in DU. For students it's a chance to show their gratitude to donors who have made their schooling possible. The dinner also helps them with networking skills they'll need in the future.

Gifts that grow in value

During the evening's program, student speakers James Czerew and Sandra Kiel expressed their appreciation for the financial support they receive.

(continued on page 4)

James Czerew,
student
speaker and
DU Foundation
scholarship
recipient



Scholarship gifts make a difference

(continued from p. 3)

"The scholarship I received has allowed me the opportunity to concentrate more fully on my studies and worry less about the financial challenge of paying tuition," said James, a School of Technology student who is pursuing bachelor's degrees in both network security and network engineering. "It is very inspiring to me to know that there are people willing to aid students such as myself with their time and financial gifts, even though we have never met."

Sandra Kiel graduated from DU in 1981 with an associate's degree. "Today I have been given the gift of education," said the mother of four who is now studying for a bachelor's degree. "You have not only given this gift to me, you have encouraged all of the students at Davenport to pursue their dreams. This is a gift that only grows in value ... Tonight I share my story to simply say 'thank you!' Your gift has made a difference in my life. Your gift is making my dream a reality."



Sandra Kiel, student speaker and Herman Miller Endowed Scholarship recipient



Donors Don and Judy Strock



Donors Bob and Char Vanderson, Bev and Fred Braun



Charles and Helen Harrison with their scholarship recipient, Kevin Carpenter and his wife Deborah



Barb Mieras with donor Tom Carey



Clare VanderLaan (left) and her scholarship recipient, Bonnie Zimmer



President Randy Flechsig with Nonhlanhla Sibanda, recipient of The Maine Family Scholarship

Planned giving can help a student start, stay, and succeed

At this time of year, many people are thinking about their options for charitable giving. As you make your own giving decisions, consider this: Planning your gift to Davenport University now can help a DU student start, stay, and succeed in the future.

Planned giving through deferred and estate-plan gifts is an increasingly popular way to purposefully leave such a legacy. You have several options for planning your gift to DU:

Bequests Remember DU in your estate with a gift through your will or trust.

Give from your IRA As part of the Pension Protection Act of 2006, Congress has made it possible to make tax-free charitable gifts from your IRA. If you are over the age of 70½, you may want to consider making gifts directly from your IRA.

Gifts through life insurance Many members of Davenport's Legacy Club have already named DU as the beneficiary of an insurance policy.

Charitable annuity This can be in the form of a charitable remainder annuity trust, charitable lead trust, charitable gift annuity, or charitable remainder unitrust.

Legacy Club is a way to say "thanks"

Many DU supporters have become members of the Davenport University Legacy Club with planned giving through deferred or estate-plan donations.

The Legacy Club is our way of recognizing these generous and forward-thinking donors. It allows

the university to thank them today for the gifts of tomorrow, which will benefit our students long into the future.

Leaving a legacy is important to everyone. Won't you keep DU in mind as you plan yours? For more information, please contact Dr. Jacqueline Taylor, vice president for development, at 616-233-3418.



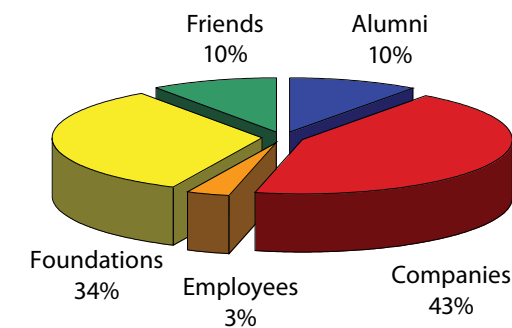
Note: This article is meant to describe ways in which you can assist Davenport into the future; however, for assistance in planning charitable gifts with tax and other financial implications, you will want to seek the services of appropriate advisors.

Giving ... the foundation of living

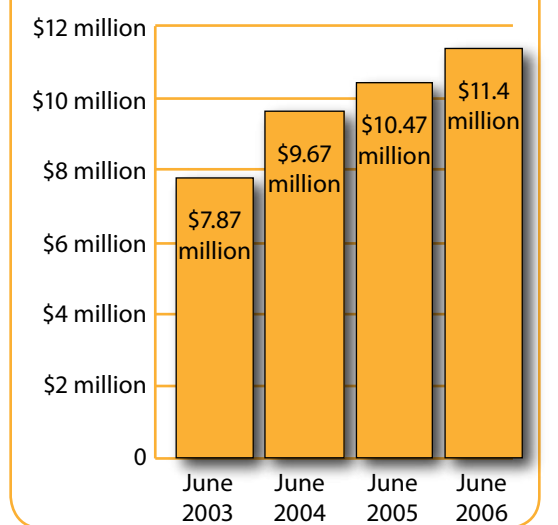
Davenport University Foundation raises \$2 million-plus in FY '05

In the fiscal year 2005-06, a total of \$2.15 million in gifts and pledges was raised for student scholarships, programs, and capital projects. We offer our deepest gratitude to the many alumni, friends, and companies who made this success possible. Your support impacts the lives of thousands of DU students every day. On behalf of them, thank you!

2005-06 giving by constituency



DU Foundation Endowment



Charitable giving and your taxes: a primer

U.S. taxpayers claimed more than \$135 billion in charitable contributions in 2002, according to Jeff Schnepfer, writing for *MSN Money*. That makes charitable gifts the third biggest deduction, right behind deductions for taxes paid and mortgage interest. Clearly, making charitable contributions is a popular way to reduce your tax bill while benefiting your favorite cause.

How does my gift reduce my taxes?

Tax law allows your charitable gift to a qualified recipient as an itemized deduction on your tax return. And because a deduction means a *tax savings*, your actual donation cost is less. For example:

Itemized donation	\$100
Tax savings (25% tax bracket)	\$ 25
Actual cost of donation	\$ 75

What gifts are deductible?

Only your gifts to qualified recipients are allowed as deductions. You can check the Internal Revenue Service website (www.irs.gov/charities) for a specific list. Here's a general list of organizations that qualify (from IRS Publication 526):

- Churches, synagogues, temples, mosques, and other religious organizations
- Federal, state, and local governments if your contribution is solely for public purposes (for example, a gift to reduce the public debt)
- **Nonprofit schools** (such as Davenport University) and hospitals
- War veterans groups

What counts as a gift?

- Money or property to a qualified organization
- Your expenses as a volunteer for a qualified organization
- Expenses paid for a student who lives with you and is sponsored by a qualified organization

When is a gift deductible?

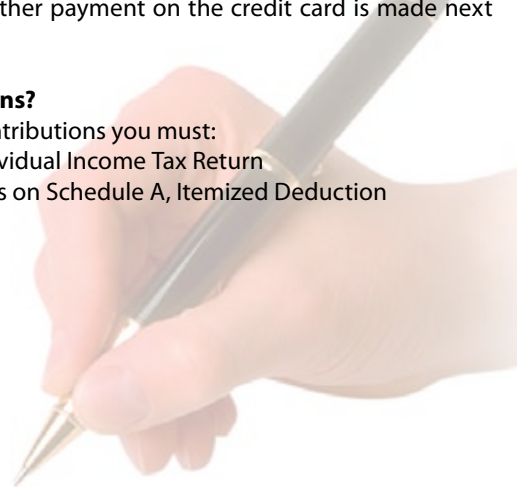
A gift is deductible in the year it is paid. A check in the mail counts as payment regardless of when it is received or cashed. A credit card contribution is deductible immediately, whether payment on the credit card is made next month or next year.

How do I claim my deductions?

To deduct your charitable contributions you must:

- File Form 1040 U.S. Individual Income Tax Return
- Itemize your deductions on Schedule A, Itemized Deduction

—Source: *MSN Money*



3 quick questions for alum and donor Mike Door



Mike Door, ABA '77, is a partner with Lettinga & Associates, LLC, CPAs. He represents the second of three generations in his family to graduate from Davenport: His father, Eugene in 1956 and daughter Kristen with the class of 2004. Mike and his wife, Deb, have been married 28 years and have three children, ages 25, 23, and 18. His alumni involvement goes back to the mid '80s, and he's served with the Alumni Association and on the Davenport Foundation board.

Q: How involved have you been with Davenport since you graduated?

A: I've attended and worked at a lot of Alumni Association and Foundation events over the years. I served on the Alumni Association Board for nine years, three of them as president. I've been on the Foundation board for five years, currently serving as chairman of the investment committee and as treasurer of the Foundation.

Q: What's been your favorite Davenport "cause" to get involved with?

A: The more rewarding and enjoyable experiences have been the career fairs and forums with the students. Just recently I was on a panel with four others, talking to career classes. This gives me a chance to help students get started in their careers. It's helpful when they can connect and talk with someone who is doing what they want to do. I also enjoy hearing from students who receive scholarships. It's very gratifying to know I'm helping where there's need.

Q: Why has it been important for you to give back to Davenport?

A: God has given me time, talents and resources, and it is my responsibility to give these back in all areas of my life. One of the areas I have chosen is Davenport.

When we give, we have to open our hands to let it go. We also receive with open hands. My experience has been that when I give to others, I am blessed.



Thomas Clærhout

What donor dollars can do

Thomas Clærhout graduated as co-salutatorian of the Unionville-Sebewaing Area High School class of 2006. A dual-enrollee at Davenport during his senior year, Thomas thought attending DU was a given.

"I loved the small class sizes and the hands-on instructors," says Thomas, who began his full-time studies at DU with 19 credits already under his belt. "I didn't want to attend a huge university where I would be just another number."

But finances would be a problem. Thomas was accepted at a public university, "but

that school really didn't fit me," he says. "It seemed like they didn't want to accommodate me." Then he was offered a full scholarship from DU.

"It's a dream come true. With my schedule, I go to class three days a week and put in about 25 hours at work," says the sales manager at a fledgling plastics company. "Without the scholarship paying for tuition, I could not manage."

And manage he does. At this writing, Thomas was carrying 15 credits, holding down a 4.0 GPA, and aiming to graduate in just three years.



“We love it!”

Sleek new Grand Rapids main campus gets rave reviews from everyone

The opening of the modern, technologically forward main campus on the outskirts of Grand Rapids last fall ushered in an exciting new era for Davenport University. Our heartfelt thanks go out to all donors and friends who’ve made — and continue to make — the dream of education possible for students at DU.

Clockwise from top: students meet and study in lounge areas of the Margaret Davenport Sneden Library Information Commons, relax in their room in the Peter C. & Pat Cook Residence Hall, and enjoy lunch in the canteen in the Donald W. Maine Student Center.



Clockwise from upper left: Students at the entrance of the Richard M. DeVos and Jay Van Andel Academic Building, and in the Tyrus R. Wessell Bookstore, fitness center, library information commons, and residence hall.

