



Davenport
Schools
Foundation

The Davenport Schools Foundation

1606 Brady St.
Davenport, Iowa 52803

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OUR PRIDE IS SHOWING – FOR 150 YEARS!

It happened before the Wright brothers' first flight. It happened before the invention of the light bulb and the telephone. It happened before the Civil War.

"It" is the founding of the Davenport Community School District. As the fledging community of Davenport, Iowa, was organizing in the late 1850s, the community passed a referendum calling for the organizing of a school program. Community leaders borrowed \$500 to organize the facilities and personnel, with the loan being approved on Dec. 9, 1858. And the rest, as they say, truly is history.

What a proud history it is, marked by incredible growth in numbers and impressive levels of achievement. Excellence in academics, music, athletics, drama, community service and leadership have been the cornerstones of education in the DCSD. Now, to celebrate this significant landmark—the sesquicentennial of Davenport Community Schools—a series of events is being planned for a variety of audiences.

The Foundation is planning a special reception for teachers and administrators at the Figge Art Museum this fall. The fall music festival, which is free to all, will be dedicated to the 150th anniversary celebration. And the big party will take part in all the district schools on Tuesday, Dec. 9, when birthday cake will be served to all employees and students.

In addition, a series of media events is being planned, including articles in the *QC Times*, and the coverage (described on page 3) in *QC Magazine*.

All in all, it will be a special season marking the growth and celebrating the diversity of Davenport Community Schools.

Superintendent Julio Almanza said,

"It has taken an amazing team of faculty and administrators, working with parents and the community, to lead successive generations of students through our schools. The accomplishments are great, and so is the pride. We have challenges and deadlines to meet every day, but it is important for all of us to observe this special occasion. We encourage you to visit our schools, to come and reconnect with our past and see a glimpse of our future."



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Summer 2008

The Davenport Schools Foundation is a tax-exempt, non-profit corporation chartered in 1987. The Foundation was created to provide resources to enhance the educational opportunities and experiences available to students in the Davenport Community Schools.

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BE A FOUNDATION FRIEND THROUGH BIRDIES FOR CHARITY

"FORE!" will be exclaimed thousands of times at the John Deere Classic golf tourney in July. The quiet chatter on the course will deal with weather, bugs, sunscreen and, of course, Birdies for Charity.

By filling out a pledge card and designating the Davenport Schools Foundation as the recipient of your tax-deductible donation, you will be supporting us and our efforts to enhance the educational opportunities for thousands of students each year.

DSF LUCKY NUMBER ... 969

Please mark Bird Number 969 to contribute to the Davenport Schools Foundation! THANKS! To learn more, go to the Web site: www.birdiesforcharity.com.

Specifically, this includes scholarships and the Great Minds enrichment programs.



Last year we received almost \$2,000 in contributions and the Birdies program raised \$3.9 million for area charities. With the bonus program, the John Deere Classic pays 110 percent of regular contributions to each participating group.

So, thanks to John Deere, the golfers and fans, and to our many loyal supporters who designate the Davenport Schools Foundation as their charity of choice. FORE!

THANKS FOR YOUR TRIBUTES

The Tribute to Teachers campaign concluded in May during Teacher Appreciation Week. Thanks to the dozens of DSF friends and family who sent in contributions in honor of the special teachers in their lives. As grateful as the foundation is for the monetary boost, it pales next to the emotional responses of the teachers on the receiving end of some very nice comments.

"Wow, what a testimonial! And to hear and read it while I am still alive," said Caryl Haring of Papillon, Neb., who is a retired kindergarten teacher from Eisenhower Elementary School.

A most impressive testimonial was sent to Steve Saladino, who teaches science at West High School and also coaches



soccer. A former student/player who now lives in DeWitt, Iowa, sent in a lengthy letter praising Saladino's "long-time commitment to enlightening young minds and always encouraging us to be our best." Responding to the comments, Saladino said, "My 30 years have been worth it—just from this one letter. I feel like I did make a difference in one person's life. Today is a great day."

Even though the official Tribute to Teachers season has wrapped up, it's still possible to submit a tribute and donation. Forms are available through the DSF office or online at www.davenportschools.org/foundation. Go ahead, make a teacher happy today!

DSF PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Summer 2008



The Davenport Schools Foundation works to provide resources to enhance the educational environment for all students. The operative word here is 'works.' Because the Foundation recognizes the importance of excellent public education, it is always working to find and secure resources to enhance the education experience for all of the Davenport public school students. The Foundation does this several ways. We accept and professionally manage money donated for scholarships as well as administering the selection of the

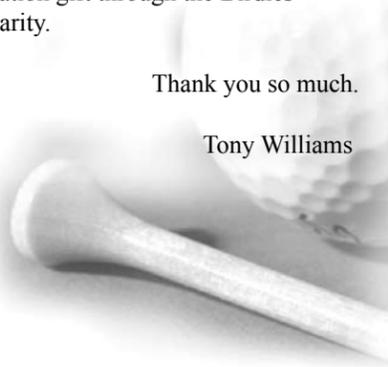
winners. We raise money and recognize teaching excellence through our Tribute to Teachers program each spring. We make direct requests in each newsletter. We receive grants that apply to our mission. We approach individuals and businesses for donations and sponsorships of specific activities.

Thanks to the generosity of the John Deere Classic, money donated through the Birdies for Charity to the Foundation will bring an additional 10% over the original amount. What a great idea for

helping not-for-profits like the Foundation! We hope you will consider making your Foundation gift through the Birdies for Charity.

Thank you so much.

Tony Williams



The Spirit and the Experience

Last year, Diana Corsiglia contacted Great Minds Program Director Gene Conrad with a proposal to bring an Alaskan Husky trainer, Doug Ruzicka, to the Adams second graders. Great Minds and Adams split the cost.

Based on that successful experience, Ms. Corsiglia decided to repeat the presentation to all of the school's 90 second graders. Great Minds supported the visit again. "The kids are simply fascinated by listening to him—they hang on his every word," said Ms. Corsiglia.

The second grade teachers tied the visit to Unit 4 of the Treasures Reading Series, which features a literary selection about a Husky sled dog and an Alaskan boy. A science component in the curriculum teaches second graders about the arctic region. But the project extends beyond the reading book, the science curriculum, Mr. Ruzicka or his Husky. "We build layer upon layer of learning in this project," said Ms. Corsiglia.

Each student picks a partner, and those two second-graders choose a musher from the official Iditarod Web site. By using videos and maps, they follow the progress of the sleds through the checkpoints of the 1,000-mile race across Alaska. "The best part is that the students have so much fun they do not realize they are learning," laughs Ms. Corsiglia.

Presenter Ruzicka, whose children race in a junior version of the Iditarod, knows many of the Iditarod entrants. He often mentions names of entrants and the



Doug Ruzicka and his furry friend captivated the students at Adams Elementary.

second graders are thrilled to recognize their mushers.

This year the Davenport Schools Foundation committed \$20,000 and approved 85 projects impacting 8,000 students. As a matter of policy, Great Minds will not support Ms. Corsiglia's Husky program for a third year. After supporting a project twice, it is assumed that successful projects will be adopted by the buildings. However, new ideas from the second grade at Adams will be welcomed.

Great Minds is a win/win for the community. Many other Great Minds activities support teachers who broaden the curriculum with local cultural assets such as the Figge Art Museum, the Bettendorf Family Museum, the Putnam, the QC Ballet, Niabi Zoo, the QC Botanical Center, Junior Theater, Circa 21, and others.

DSF ANNOUNCES 2008 SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

The Davenport Schools Foundation has awarded and coordinated \$43,000 in scholarships, which were presented to 23 graduating seniors at Central, North and West high schools. DSF Scholarship Committee co-chairs Manny Fritz and Robert Cahoy led a team of volunteers who reviewed hundreds of applications for the scholarships ranging in amount from \$12,000 to \$500.

Said Fritz, "Thanks to our individual donors and corporate friends, the Foundation has once again completed a generous scholarship season." Cahoy said, "The demanding process for choosing winners each year reminds us how talented our students are. It's a very good feeling to congratulate all the applicants on their impressive high school careers."

Nicholas De La Cruz, who won a \$12,000 scholarship for his studies at the University of Texas at Austin, said his win will "ease the financial burden on my family, which is something I am very grateful for."

The winners include the following students:

Nicholas De La Cruz of Central High School won the Kathryn Bell Tate Scholarship (\$12,000 over four years). He is the son of Michael and Brenda De La Cruz of Davenport.

Adam Reab of West High won the Joan Kohlberg-Lowen Scholarship (\$4,000). His parents are Gary and Cynthia Reab of Blue Grass.

Benjamin Behrendt of Central won a Helen G. Pohling Scholarship (\$1,200). His parents are John and Ann Behrendt of Davenport.

Nicholas Villareal of North High School won a Helen G. Pohling Scholarship (\$1,200). His parents are Ben and Susan Villareal, Davenport. (\$1,200).

Kelly Kretschmer of West High won a Helen G. Pohling Scholarship (\$1,200). Her parents are Mark and Debra Kretschmer, Davenport.

Tori Crossen of Central won the Davenport Schools Foundation Scholarship (\$1,000). Her mother is

Tricia Crossen of Davenport. **Emma Quinn** of Central won a Class of 1959 Scholarship (\$1,000). Her parents are Victor and Kathleen Quinn, Davenport.

Carly Dinnes of North High won a Class of 1959 Scholarship (\$1,000). Her parents are Ralph and Jill Dinnes, Davenport.

Nicholas Eisenbacher, a West High senior, won the Lisa Arbisser Scholarship (\$500).

His parents are David and Lynnette Eisenbacher of Davenport.

Megan Dee of Central won the Jane Grady Scholarship (\$5,000 over four years). Her parents are Kyle and Barbara Dee of Davenport.

Dallas Burke, a senior at Central, won a Jurgens Scholarship (\$1,500). His parents are Mike and Deb Burke of Davenport.

Melanie Louis of Central won a Jurgens Scholarship (\$1,500) and a CHS Hall of Honor Scholarship (\$1,500). Her parents are Robert and Diane Louis of Davenport.

Max Mayfield of Central won a Jurgens Scholarship (\$1,500) and a CHS Hall of Honor Scholarship (\$1,500). His parents are Clyde and Julie Martens, Davenport.

Jessica Vandenberg, a senior at Central, won a Jurgens Scholarship (\$1,500). Her mother is Susan Vandenberg.

Brian Keppy of West High School was awarded the George E. Weis Memorial Scholarship (\$500). His parents are Carl and Vicki Keppy of Walcott.

Christine Jensen of Central won a Hanae Fujiwara Wiese Memorial Scholarship (\$1,000). Her parents are Ric and Susan Jensen of Davenport.

Stephen Quist of Central won a CHS Hall of Honor Scholarship (\$1,500). His parents are David and Roberta Quist of Davenport.

Grant Kilmer of Central won a CHS Hall of Honor Scholarship (\$1,500). His parents are Mark and Kathy Kilmer of Davenport.

Kelsey Hoeksema of Central won a CHS Hall of Honor Scholarship (\$1,500). Her parents are David and Christa



DSF scholarship winners joined with the Davenport School Board members on June 9 to celebrate another successful school year.

Hoeksema of Davenport.

Brian Higdon, Central, won a CHS Hall of Honor Scholarship (\$1,500). His parents are Dale and Irene Higdon, Davenport.

Hallie Lowder, a Kimberly Center East graduate, won a Johnson School Scholarship (\$1,000). Her parents are Kim and Bob Lowder, Davenport.

Jordan Martinez, Central High School, won a Johnson School Scholarship (\$1,000). His parents are Ernie Terrell and Tina Martinez, Davenport.

Rebecca Slawson, West High School, won a Johnson School Scholarship (\$1,000). Her parents are Rob and Beth Slawson, Davenport.

The Buttleman-Arbisser Scholarship was split (\$500 each) between two seniors at Central High School. The winners were **David Whalen**, son of Kirk and Lisa Whalen, and **Tim Corlett**, son of Tom and Kristin Corlett, all of Davenport.

Watch for DSF in QC Magazine!

The locally published QC Magazine is focusing on education in its upcoming September issue. According to Publisher Beth Clark, the bi-monthly feature magazine will include an article on area school foundations, including the Davenport Schools Foundation. In addition, there will be a feature about the sesquicentennial celebration for the Davenport Community School District, which was founded in 1858

