

Distinguished Alumnus 2002
Ira Davenport
Class of 1908

Ira "Davy" Davenport was born in 1887 and attended University Preparatory School from 1904-1908. In 1907 and 1908 he was named the outstanding athlete in the Interscholastic Games at the University of Oklahoma, and in 1908 he established a world's record for preparatory schools in the 100-yard dash. He obtained an Engineering degree from the University of Chicago and in 1912 won an Olympic bronze medal in the 800-meter dash.

Married to Phyllis Schreiner, he worked as construction superintendent for the Boat and Boiler Works, Dubuque, Iowa. Within six years he owned the company, a position he maintained until his death.

In 1921 Mr. Davenport became volunteer head football coach for Loras College, accomplishing the greatest single season turnaround in that school's football history. He also coached American Legion-sponsored football teams. He served on the Dubuque School Board, was a trustee of the Dubuque YMCA and chaired the Republican Central Committee. He died in 1941.