

Stout Outlook

News for Stout Alumni,
Parents and Friends

Fall 2001
UW-Stout Alumni Association

A Place for Lifelong Learning and Lifetime Fitness

UW-Stout celebrates new recreation complex



Grand opening of the Recreation/Athletic complex was held October 19. Cutting the ribbon (center) are Rome Cagle, Stout Student Association President, and Chancellor Charles W. Sorensen. Looking on (l to r) are Diane Moen, vice chancellor for Administrative and Student Life Services; Robert Sedlak, provost; Marshall Quilling, Menomonie School District; Richard Lowery, (obscured behind Cagle) City of Menomonie; B. Jane Hoyt, (partially obscured behind Sorensen) Dunn County Board; Linda Funk, Stout University Foundation; James Albers, UW System; and Moose Speros, State of Wisconsin.

For more information about the facilities, including event scheduling, call 715/232-4079. Details are also available on the UW-Stout Web site at: <http://www.uwstout.edu/reccomplex/>

In conjunction with its homecoming festivities, UW-Stout opened its new \$8.9 million Recreation/Athletic Complex. During the weeklong celebration, titled "A Place for Lifelong Learning and Lifetime Fitness," students, faculty, staff, alumni and community members attended a variety of grand opening events, including a ribbon cutting ceremony on Friday, October 19.

Throughout the week the university offered tours of the complex, a project that involved redeveloping 30 acres for recreation, adding 17,800 square feet to the Physical Education Building and constructing a 4,500-seat stadium.

The new facilities respond to the needs of UW-Stout students. In 1996, the Stout Student Association passed a resolution that identified "the need for more and improved recreation, intramural and athletic facilities." The student body then voted to approve a program revenue segregated fee that will raise \$3 million for the facility over a 20-year period.

In addition to student fees, the City of Menomonie, Dunn County and the Menomonie Area School District have contributed to financing the complex. The project was also funded through donor gifts that were raised by the Stout University Foundation Inc., program revenue, and an exclusive pouring rights contract between the university and Pepsi Cola.

Great new view

UW-Stout's new Don and Nona Williams Stadium, which was named for the Menomonie couple who donated \$1 million to the project, features the second artificial turf field in the state of Wisconsin, the other being Camp Randall Stadium in Madison.

According to Michael Buxrude, manager of the Recreation/Athletic Complex, all stadium spectators are treated to a great view of the action. "There is not a bad seat in this stadium," he said. Spectators may choose to sit on general admission bleachers or in the 440 reserved seats located in the top center area, he added.

The top level of the three-story stadium holds a press box area, a hospitality room with an outside deck, several coaches' boxes and an open deck for media use. The bottom floor holds a concessions area that is operated by UW-Stout's University Dining Service. Other conveniences include bathrooms, water fountains and elevator access on each floor.

Ninth year UW-Stout football coach Ed Meierkort said the new stadium will bring a great deal of visibility to both the university and the Menomonie community.

"We are going from one of the worst facilities in the UW System to one of the best. Dressing up Nelson field was like dressing up an old lineman in a tuxedo. The new facilities are excellent and will attract games from area high schools, playoffs and a lot of tournament play to our area," Meierkort said.

In fact, Buxrude pointed out that the Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association has visited the facility because they are interested in using it for playoff games.

In order to alleviate traffic in the neighborhoods surrounding the stadium during scheduled events, UW-Stout offers free parking in university lots. The university will also provide security and clean up for each event.

Beyond the end zones

As a place for lifetime fitness, UW-Stout's new Recreation/Athletic Complex meets a wide variety of needs for everyone in the surrounding community. In addition to the stadium, the complex presents the following facilities:

- **Indoor climbing walls and adventure trip planning area:** Offers quality climbing experiences with the assistance of trained facilitators, outdoor equipment rental and a resource center for planning outdoor trips and activities.
- **Outdoor adventure challenge course (ropes courses):** Fosters teamwork, trust and communication among participating groups. Available to students and staff, and to community, business, corporate and civic groups by reservation.
- **Indoor health and fitness center:** Provides machines, cardiovascular equipment and free weights for beginners on up to advanced weight lifters.
- **Indoor group fitness facility:** Offers space for recreational aerobic classes and club sport practices.
- **Outdoor natural grass fields:** Accommodates softball, soccer, rugby, flag football, ultimate Frisbee and other events.
- **Six outdoor lighted NCAA tennis courts**
- **Two outdoor official-sized sand volleyball courts**
- **Outdoor lighted NCAA soccer field**
- **Outdoor lighted NCAA women's softball field**

Grants and Research

Activity involves growing number of students, faculty and staff.

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Recent legislation offers several advantages to giving in 2001.

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Homecoming Traditions

A fond look back at this favorite campus occasion.

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