April Showers Bring Green Fairways, Spring and Golf are FINALLY HERE!

With Advisement Day now in our rear view mirror and the end of the semester right around the bend we are driving right into summer and another round of internships for our GEM Students. For some of you it will be your second internship which means the Same Face, New Place – ESPN reference – while others will be entering their rookie season and several are retiring from Stout via Graduation. No matter what the case may be it looks to be a very exciting summer for everyone in the program!

New GEM Program Plan and “Degree Audit”
As you have been informed in previous issues of On the Fringe the GEM program was in the process of revamping the program and you will be happy to know that a new and improved version of our degree is now finalized. The NEW program plan audit is available through Access Stout and you should go online soon to review your academic requirements. Using this process will also assist you in choosing your classes for next fall.

In addition to the NEW Program Plan, Stout has finally completed their transition to PeopleSoft and that means your degree progress report is now available (formerly the Degree Audit). Remember to take both of these documents into consideration when planning out the next semester and the rest of your time here at Stout. We hope you like the changes to the program because they were well thought out and approved by numerous industry professionals via the GEM Advisory Board to ensure our graduating seniors are well prepared for their new careers. There is another Advisory Board meeting Tomorrow, April 22nd, where we will discuss a number of topics including how to better promote the program in order to find even more job opportunities for you the students!

Logo Balls for the GEM Lab
If any of you have had classes in the GEM Lab this year or at least stopped by you have undoubtedly noticed new golf banners from numerous industry sponsors but you may have also noticed an empty golf ball display. We want you guys and gals to fill it up! Next fall when you arrive back on campus be sure to bring us a logo ball from your internship course so that everyone can see the places our students have been. Don’t be shy about bringing in a logo ball from any previous internship’s either!

New GEM Fitting Lab Approved!!
It goes without question that everyone in the GEM Program has, in one way or another, an interest in the game of golf. Well I have exciting news to report to everyone because you will soon be able to learn one more aspect of our industry. Thanks to the recent approval from the University and the State of Wisconsin we have been given the funds for a Golf Club Repair and Custom Fitting Lab.

Thanks to the hard work and initial proposal from GEM Assistant’s Zach Friedman and Ryan Bloms the program will be the proud new owners of a state of the art lab for the use of our students. Once the lab is completed it will be used in numerous current GEM classes. In addition it is the hope that in the next couple semesters the lab can be the building block that is needed to add into our curriculum a couple of elective GEM classes dealing with the golf swing and golf club repair. Construction of the lab is set to begin next fall and it will be located in HE Room 444. Be sure and check back next fall to check on the progression of the project and be on the lookout for more updates in the future!

Blue Devils Golf Team Updates
Both the Men’s and the Women’s teams have been hitting the links hard already this spring both in practice and in competition. With our very own Howie Samb leading the girls into their spring season they started it out right with a great second place finish in Oshkosh. The girls also have an upcoming home tournament this Friday, April 23.

The guys started the spring HOT winning their first two tournaments and finishing 2nd and 4th in their next two as they prepare for a return bid to the NCAA National Tournament in Hershey, Pennsylvania in the second week of May.

We wish both teams the best of luck in their remaining tournaments and the rest of the season!