Home Sweet Homecoming

All roads lead to Menomonie. And, although graduates know the campus and community well, there may be new opportunities that await them when they return.

For alumni expecting to attend homecoming this fall, they may benefit by checking out UW-Stout’s new community Web page at www.uwstout.edu/community before planning the trip.

The site will fill out graduates’ to-do list while they are in town. In addition to the upcoming homecoming itinerary, visitors to the site will discover Red Cedar Trail conditions, activities available at the University Recreation Center for only $3 a day, the fine art exhibition at the Furlong Gallery, and much more.

Mark your calendars for Homecoming Weekend 2006

Cheer for the Blue Devils as they take on the UW-Eau Claire Blugolds. Start working out now and join your team in one of the activities listed below.

Friday, October 13

3:00 – 4:00 p.m.  Open invitation to attend football practice in the stadium
4:00 p.m.      Former football players invited to attend post practice meeting
7:00 and 9:30 p.m.  Alumni Hockey Tourney
7:00 p.m.       Alumni Reception at Stout Ale House, tickets at door

Saturday, October 14

9:00 a.m.  Alumni Volleyball Game
(TBA)   Women’s Basketball Game
(TBA)   Men’s Basketball Game
9:00 a.m.  5K Blue Devil Run/Walk
10:00 a.m.  Alumni Baseball Game
10:00 a.m.  Alumni Sponsored Coffee and Rolls
11:00 a.m.  Homecoming Parade
1:00 p.m.   Evening Volleyball Social — Mardi Gras, payment at door

Check the alumni calendar for additional information
www.uwstout.edu/alumni click on events

KITCHENS THAT MEASURE UP

Not all chefs are the same height, but the heights of their work surfaces are. Until now. UW-Stout has designed height-adjustable and mobile cooktop and food preparation tables using a universal design philosophy.

The standard heights for work surfaces in the food industry are 33 inches or 36 inches — the ergonomic ideal for individuals between 5 feet 6 inches and 5 feet 8 inches tall. Taller or shorter individuals typically suffer from carpal tunnel syndrome or backaches over time.

The patent-pending system was developed by researchers in the Stout Vocational Rehabilitation Institute in collaboration with faculty and students in the College of Human Development. The system adjusts in elevation from 27 inches to 47 inches and rolls around a room, meeting the needs of 90 percent of users. Individuals from 4 feet 4 inches tall to 6 feet 7 inches tall can adjust the height of their cooktops for optimum comfort and safety.

Stephen Mountain and Mei-Lin Hung using cooktop and food preparation tables, each at their ideal height, to convey range of height.
ON CAMPUS

Service during Spring Break

It was spring break at UW-Stout and snow was predicted to fall in Menomonie that week. Eighty-six students and four staff members climbed onto two buses headed to a warm, sandy beach 26 hours away.

The group was not bound to party hot spots Daytona Beach, Fla., or South Padre Island, Texas. They were destined for Waveland, Miss., where Hurricane Katrina slammed ashore leaving behind one of the hardest hit areas along the Gulf Coast.

After orientation and disaster training, the UW-Stout students were prepared to help rebuild lives. In the mornings, the group removed debris and trees, hung sheetrock and made building repairs. In the afternoons, the students raised the spirits of Waveland’s children at the Boys and Girls Club through arts and crafts and games.

Citizen of the Year

Chancellor Charles W. Sorensen was a victim of a surprise party of sorts. When Sorensen attended the Menomonie Area Chamber of Commerce annual banquet Feb. 1, he didn’t realize it would become more personal than other events. He was about to be named Citizen of the Year.

The chamber’s highest honor was presented to Sorensen for adding business growth, quality of life and distinction to the community.

Under his leadership, UW-Stout receives national recognition for its work in technology transfer — the application of university research and technology to help solve industry problems that increases business productivity and market competitiveness. He supports program development, distance education, technology in the classroom and private fund raising.

Under his leadership, UW-Stout was named as the first Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award recipient in higher education.
Michael Pickart, assistant professor of biology, believes the zebrafish has a number of characteristics that make it an especially valuable model for scientific studies. Because zebrafish development occurs externally and the embryo is clear, he and his students can watch development as it happens. Zebrafish develop from egg to embryo to adult in approximately three days, allowing fast results from experiments. And because zebrafish are vertebrate organisms, zebrafish findings may be applicable to humans. Pickart’s research is centered on important biotechnological innovations in genomics, tissue engineering, antisense-mediated gene therapy, computational biology and bioinformatics. According to Pickart, a multidisciplinary approach to biology will lead to many advances in human medicine not yet imagined.