Stout landmark razed as part of city-campus beautification project

Ray Hall, a landmark on the Stout campus since 1914, is no more. The structure was razed in June after a 20-year struggle to save it.

Thousands of its bricks and features of its design will continue to be an integral part of the campus, however, as part of the Second Street Historic Corridor—a city and campus beautification project. Improvements will include a one-quarter mile walkway for pedestrians, bicyclists and in-line skaters. Several historical brick "nodes" will be constructed of Ray Hall bricks, presenting information about current or previous buildings or points of significance along the path. In addition, six columns ranging from 8 to 12 feet high will be constructed along the building’s eastern edge to commemorate the structure and the man for whom it was named.

Ray Hall was named in 1961 for the late J. Edgar Ray who taught bricklaying, mechanical drawing and architectural drafting at Stout for 45 years. The structure was previously known as the Trades Building and was named for Ray after he retired in 1959.

Since the mid-1970s, the state’s Division of Facilities Development has provided no alternatives to removing the 82-year-old structure. State and UW System engineers recommended demolition for more than 20 years because all elements of the two-story building were obsolete and did not comply to current building code. An estimated $4 million would have been needed just to bring the building up to code.

The State Building Commission included funds to remove the building as part of the $8.2 million Jarvis Hall Remodeling and Addition project four years ago. The addition, now known as Micheels Hall, links Jarvis Hall and the Applied Arts Building. The Furlong Art Gallery, previously located in Ray Hall, is now located in Micheels Hall, while the textbook service is now in the Library Learning Center.

In 1914, J. Edgar Ray, an itinerant journeyman bricklayer, was hired to finish the intricate brickwork around the entrance of the household arts building (now Harvey Hall).

President Harvey was so impressed with Ray’s work that he asked him to teach bricklaying. Ray had graduated from a trade school but did not have a degree at the time. So, while teaching, he earned his bachelor of science degree in industrial education from the Stout Institute.

J. Edgar Ray was an artisan and a craftsman. He was not a particularly strict disciplinarian, but his students had to work hard to meet his high standards. President Fryklund, a student of Ray’s in the early 1920s, enjoyed telling a story of Ray’s unusual method of criticism. One day in class, Fryklund had just finished building a model brick wall when Ray came over to inspect it. He took one look, kicked it over and said, “Start over.”

In addition to bricklaying, Ray taught mechanical drawing and architectural drafting. Eventually, he became head of the drafting department. In 1959, J. Edgar Ray retired after 45 years of service.

Ray Hall initially housed shops for auto mechanics, woodworking and finishing, sheet metal, freehand, mechanical and architectural drawing, and building construction. In more recent years it housed artists studios, rental resources services and an art gallery.
Applied Psychology

New program seeks to shape a graduate that will fit the needs of many organizations

Teaching students how to think rather than indoctrinating them with what to think is how Lou Milanesi describes the new M.S. degree in applied psychology.

“Virtually every academic discipline is involved in how to revolutionize management practices through their extensive background in psychology and research as well as their literacy in technology,” Milanesi said.

The two-year, 48-credit degree program is designed around a core of psychological theories and methods and includes three concentrations: industrial/organizational psychology, health psychology and program evaluation. “Concentrations of interest will be available at Stout in terms of business and industry, as well as health care,” Tom Franklin, chair of the department of psychology, said.

Industrial/organizational psychology is a broad field of study which examines the behavior of people at work and in group settings. Applied industrial psychologists work with organizations in the areas of personnel psychology (selection and placement), organizational development, personnel research, and employee motivation, Milanesi said.

He noted that graduates of this program will be skilled in employee selection methods, performance assessment, job design methods, employee reward and compensation systems, career planning and development, organizational development methods, work motivation, leadership styles and research methodology. These kinds of jobs are in the human resource departments of corporations, he pointed out.

The health psychology curriculum, with proposed implementation in the fall of 1997, will focus on psychological and behavioral factors in illness, dysfunction and medical treatment. The emphasis is on psychosocial, cognitive and behavioral approaches for helping with a wide range of illnesses and dysfunction. “Concentrations on chronic diseases such as heart disease and diabetes are being developed as the program matures,” Milanesi said.

Graduates would be qualified for health care, human services, and business and industry positions as well as community settings for promoting healthy lifestyles, aiding the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of illness and related dysfunction, and in applying psychosocial approaches facilitating rehabilitation.

Proposed implementation of the program evaluation concentration is the fall of 1998. Program evaluators conduct applied studies in organizational planning, decision-making and accountability. They are involved in project evaluations, program reviews, program audits, quality control, quality assurance, and planning and development.

Employment may be in business and industry, government agencies, educational institutions, human service agencies, and consulting and contract research organizations.

“Our approach is intended to mold a student who will bring a different set of thought processes and quantitative skills to the workplace. Our emphasis will be on critical examination of real-world problems.”

Lou Milanesi

Telecommunication Systems

New major to focus on data communications, voice communications, imaging and multimedia

“The telephone will dramatically change in the future,” Scott Simenson, assistant professor in Stout’s communications, education and training department, noted in discussing the new B.S. degree in telecommunication systems offered by the College of Technology, Engineering and Management.

Simenson said that telephones are one of the main vehicles in the broad network of telecommunications, and now electronic equipment such as computers are being attached to them in increasing numbers.

“The telecommunications industry is rapidly evolving,” Simenson said. “It’s changing almost daily. We want to produce a well-rounded student who can work in business situations and be up-to-date with the latest technology.”

Stout is the only university in Wisconsin, and one of only a handful in the country, to offer this degree. The new degree is similar to what has been offered at Stout for the last decade, Simenson said, “but with a major in telecommunication systems, we are able to focus more and offer more technically in-depth courses to better prepare students for industries, especially the emerging ones.”

As a part of that effort, a series of new telecommunications labs are being expanded with the help of key telecommunications companies who will donate equipment and people to help set them up, Simenson said. A variety of network designs will be incorporated, and the labs will continue to evolve to reflect current technology directions.

The focus of the degree program is on data communications, voice communications, imaging and multimedia to prepare students for technical, managerial and leadership positions in that dynamic environment.

The program emphasizes technical, managerial and business courses. Students will qualify for positions such as network administrators and designers, information systems analysts and engineers, and technical representatives.

“Companies are constantly adding new services,” Simenson said, “and the opportunities for business are tremendous.” He said that Stout students graduating in this field have had no problem finding jobs. Placement in 1994—1995 was 96.5 percent, and starting salaries were between $28,000 and $43,000 a year, approximately. Simenson noted that U.S. West has hired seven Stout graduates in the past year.

Persons interested in the program can check the telecommunication systems homepage (accessible from the Stout home page) or call the department at 715/232-1311.

“The industry is rapidly evolving, it’s changing almost daily. We want to produce a well-rounded student who can work in business situations and be up-to-date with the latest technology.”

Scott Simenson

Graphic Communications Management

New major is designed to better tailor Stout’s graphic arts program to the printing and publishing industry

Stout has a new major which will give the graphic arts program more visibility and better prepare students to meet the needs of the printing and publishing industry. “This new major will allow us to react more quickly to the needs of the industry,” Jim Herr, graphic arts management coordinator, said.

The new graphic communications management major is designed to better tailor Stout’s graphic arts program to the printing and publishing industry. According to Jim Tenorio, professor of graphic arts management, printing and publishing is the second largest manufacturing industry in Wisconsin. “And the industry is clamoring for graduates,” he said. “Placement is near 100 percent.”

The graphic arts program at Stout is certainly nothing new. In fact, it began in 1912 by offering graphics arts courses to students preparing to be teachers. In 1956, a graphic arts management program was set up at Stout. Now that is has become a major with revised curriculum, students should be even better prepared for industries, especially the emerging ones.

“We want to make sure our graduates have the competency they need to be successful in the field,” noted Ted Bensen, associate professor. “We have listened to employers, more precise than the general ‘industrial technology’ label.”

Graphic communications management majors will now have broad liberal arts requirements, Bensen noted, so that they will graduate with a well-rounded general college education.

The program has a good combination of hands-on technical experience plus business and management emphasis. “The hands-on experience gives students a better understanding of the industry in general,” he said, noting that the variety gives students skills to serve in various capacities. Students have taken positions from production manager and manufacturing managers to sales representatives.

Students seem to have no problems finding positions. In fact, the Printing Industry of Wisconsin (PIW), the state trade organization for printing and publishing companies, surveyed its largest members recently. “They reported they could hire every one of our (graphic arts) graduates for the next 10 years,” Tenorio said. And that’s just in Wisconsin.

“We put out a good product,” Bensen said simply—“students well prepared to work in the field.”

The curriculum has improved to do an even better job of that, but “our philosophy has remained the same,” Tenorio emphasized.

Stout Outlook
Stout’s SVRI to establish new rehabilitation center

Continuing education center will serve the personnel training needs of about a third of the nation’s community-based rehabilitation programs.

 UW-Stout has been awarded a multimillion dollar federal grant that will enable it to serve the personnel training needs of about a third of the nation’s community-based rehabilitation programs. The grant will fund a new unit in the Stout Vocational Rehabilitation Institute. John Wesolek, director of the institute, said the center adds a dynamic dimension to SVRI and enables it to further essential training in the region. Titled the Continuing Education Center for Community-Based Rehabilitation Programs of Region V, the unit will serve Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio and Wisconsin.

“Stout is one of three nationally competed for and awarded centers. Other successful applicants were the University of Missouri-Columbia and San Diego State University.”

Collaborating institutions with the center will be the University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana, Rehabilitation Services; and DePaul University, Chicago, Rehabilitation Administration.

“Rehabilitation services to persons with disabilities through community-based programs. Other successful applicants were Minnesota, Ohio and Wisconsin.”

“The Continuing Education Center presents a win-win opportunity for all constituencies,” Menz said.

“The center will be directed and coordinated by Fredrick Menz and Daniel McAlees, nationally known leaders in rehabilitation research and development, and in rehabilitation education and public policy. Menz, research professor and associate director, Region V Training Center at UW-Stout, developed the center and wrote the application in collaboration with an SVRI program specialist.”

Menz said that this funding from the Rehabilitation Services Administration was secured because of UW-Stout’s excellent reputation in the field of vocational rehabilitation.

“These grants were highly competitive and will be responsible for meeting a significant part of personnel training needs in more than 30 percent of this nation’s community-based rehabilitation programs,” he said. “The funding level for this center was projected at slightly more than $3 million over the next five years with a minimum cap of $500,000 per year.”

Menz said the quality of the institute’s programs and centers were significant factors in selecting UW-Stout as the site of this new center. “The Research and Training Center in particular was a vital resource, as it has conducted exclusive research related to improving services to persons with disabilities through community-based rehabilitation programs across the country,” he said.

Menz said the goal of the grant is to increase the capacity of community-based programs to provide rehabilitation services which assure that quality employment and community integration outcomes are achieved by individuals with rehabilitation needs from the diverse populations and communities in Region V.

Menz said that this grant is extremely important because people with disabilities have the highest unemployment rates of any identifiable group nationally and are not typically included in unemployment figures. Approximately one-third of the people who enter vocational rehabilitation receive some or most of their services in community-based rehabilitation programs.

According to Menz, more than one million people are provided rehabilitation services daily through community-based programs, and more people are providing rehabilitation in community-based rehabilitation programs than in any other rehabilitation sector.

Menz said the program was put together with advice from leaders of community-based programs, state vocational rehabilitation agencies, state associations, consumers and employers. “The center will be committed to working in collaboration with constituencies throughout all phases of the project, including design, delivery and evaluation of its multiple activities,” Menz said. He added that a region-wide advisory committee will provide guidance and evaluation to the center’s overall program. In addition, separate state-level coordinating committees will identify annual training activities to be sponsored by the center.

Menz said the center will draw on the extensive expertise, skills, experience and knowledge of people in the region, including all units of SVRI, the director of rehabilitation programs at the Wisconsin Rehabilitation Institute, College of Technology, Engineering and Management at Stout; the rehabilitation and service programs from the University of Illinois and DePaul University; and 65 experts working in the region’s community-based programs.

Menz said that the primary audience of the new center will be program service staff of community-based programs and other individuals who are instrumental in helping people achieve and sustain employment goals.

The center is expected to provide at least 200 training programs annually, serving at least 2,000 individuals. In addition, the center will serve about 400 community-based programs in the region.

According to Menz, the center will produce a variety of benefits: community-based services to people with disabilities; employment of people with disabilities; better skilled workers for employers, student recruitment for degree programs, applications of research and technical innovations and faculty renewal and development.

“The Continuing Education Center presents a win-win opportunity for all constituencies,” Menz said.

Construction students build home

Three-bedroom, split-level home sold for $136,000

“To our knowledge, we are the first school in the country to have successfully undertaken such a project,” said UW-Stout construction professor Hans Timper of the 1,700 square-foot “spec” (speculation) house students recently finished building.

Wen the students were done, the two-story, split-level home sold for $136,000 with profits being split between UW-Stout and Lyman Lumber of Eau Claire, which provided the capital and materials for the project. Stout’s share will go toward scholarships for construction students and tools for the students who worked on the project, according to Timper.

The house is situated on a 17,000 square-foot lot in the Shorewood Heights subdivision of Menomonie. Its living room, with open staircase and vaulted ceiling, is the showroom of the house. The 14 by 15 deck is accessible from the kitchen/dining area, which also features a vaulted ceiling. Twenty-two students put in approximately 2,100 hours on the home. Sigma Lambda Chi, UW-Stout’s construction honor society, was responsible for project management. Field work and supervision was done by Stout’s Student Construction Association. Timper said students provided labor that they were capable of doing, and subcontractors did work such as electricity and plumbing.

“Most of the 250 students who are pursuing a degree in construction in Stout’s College of Technology, Engineering and Management will end up in some kind of construction management,” Timper said. “They need to learn how to keep construction on schedule and within budget. There is no better instructor than on-the-job training.”

“The construction of the house was a real learning situation for the students,” said Dan Knapp of Lyman Lumber. “The experience was very beneficial for the trade the students are going into, much more so than a mock-up house in the corner of a classroom.”

Knapp said he was impressed with the students’ dedication. “They grabbed the bull by the horns and didn’t let go,” he said. “I was really impressed that the students were willing to come back from Christmas vacation when I had to call them to insulate the house. Lyman Lumber is very pleased with the project.”

“The students did the work themselves,” Dick Vomela said. “And they did an excellent job. The home is very well built.”

Vomela is co-adviser of Stout construction groups, along with Timper.

“We thank our advisers, Hans Timper and Dick Vomela, for doing just that—advising—making this the learning experience it was intended to be,” said Dawn Tiffany, freshman construction student and an editor of The Student Constructor.

“It was a good partnership between Stout and the construction industry,” Timper said, “a win-win situation.”

Perhaps the biggest winners were Mark and Carol Wilcoxon who purchased the house. “I was thrilled to know the students had done the work,” Carol Wilcoxon said. She and her husband Mark have lived in the home since June. “I went over it with a fine-tooth comb from a woman’s view of what is needed,” Carol said.

“Everything has been great. Our neighbors, who watched the house go up, said they saw how particular the students were in their work and how well supervised they were.”

“We had inspected a variety of homes, and this is the one we decided to buy,” Mark Wilcoxon said. “We immediately noticed the quality of construction and the care that had been taken. There was a lot of attention to detail.”

“We met some of the students who were working on the house,” Mark added, “and we saw that they put a part of themselves into it. They are to be commended.”

The Wilcoxons said also that they are happy to be a part of a project that contributed so much to education.

Lambda Chi honored

UW-Stout’s chapter of Sigma Lambda Chi, an international construction honor society, was recently awarded the national “Outstanding Chapter of the Year” fund-raising award at the organization’s international annual meeting in College Station, Texas.

“We feel this is quite a significant accomplishment as the chapter just started at Stout two years ago,” said Dick Vomela, faculty co-adviser with Hans Timper.

The chapter of Sigma Lambda Chi was responsible for the project management of building a speculation house in Menomonie.

According to Vomela, students pursuing a bachelor of science degree in construction are eligible for membership in Sigma Lambda Chi after two years in the program, if they place in the upper 20 percent of their class academically. Purpose of the honor society is to give students experience in construction and to give them the opportunity for membership in a professional society.

Goals of Sigma Lambda Chi are to recognize outstanding students in construction, to give service to the field of construction; to develop good relations between academia, industry and the public; and to recognize outstanding professionals in construction and allied fields.

Major chapter activities include service projects for the school and community, scholarships, the promotion of construction industry awareness, fund raising, recognizing outstanding students, faculty and professionals in the field.

Vomela and Timper are co-advisers for both Sigma Lambda Chi and the Stout Student Construction Association.