

## **Fall term yields several accomplishments at UWSP**

Stevens Point Journal – December 29, 2011

As 2011 nears its end, I thought it appropriate to recap some of the highlights we've experienced at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point since welcoming 9,400 students here for the fall term.

First, I want to wish Journal readers happy holidays and all the best in the new year. As my wife, Cinda, and I have learned so well, this is a wonderful community of caring people. We feel blessed to be here. I often tell people I have the best job in Wisconsin. Looking back over the past few months, I'm reminded why. Here are a few examples.

On a bright, sunny day last autumn, community members joined students, faculty and staff members for the dedication of Suites@201, our new residence hall on Reserve Street. The facility provides apartment-style living for upper classmen. The \$25.5 million facility is the first new residence hall on campus since the 1960s.

Stevens Point Mayor Andrew Halverson spoke at the Suites@201 dedication and drew attention to the positive economic impact the university has on our community, the region and state, to the tune of \$408 million annually.

Just after school began for the fall term, we also marked another major improvement. The Military Science Department dedicated its new space in the Health Enhancement Center. The facilities include a 32-seat classroom, a 10-seat tactical laboratory, a computer lab, offices and storage. The facility is a terrific place for cadets to learn and gather.

In the semester just completed, we also celebrated a distinctive collaboration between our College of Natural Resources and College of Fine Arts and Communication. A mural created by student artist Jennifer Lila, a local resident, was unveiled in the Daniel O. Trainer Natural Resources Building. The 5-by-20-foot mural was funded by a donation from Robert and Kim Spoerl of Waupaca. If you haven't seen the new mural, it's well worth a trip to the Trainer Natural Resources Building west wing.

Also this past fall, our women's volleyball team scored its first NCAA Division III Championship Tournament appearance since 1986 and first conference title since 1981.

Many community residents have watched with interest the restoration of the historic cupola atop Old Main. A topping-out ceremony earlier this month drew friends from throughout the area. They had a chance to see close-up the old weather vane that topped the cupola for many years, until the elements got the best of it. They also could see and touch the new weather vane, created by artist and ironworking expert Boleslaw Kochanowski Jr. of Junction City.

The project was assisted by a generous donation from Jim and Kathleen Eggert of Rothschild. As a crane lifted the new weather vane to the top of the building, I couldn't help but think about all those who came before us, people who worked so hard to make this university a special place in

a special community. We honor that past by committing ourselves to making UWSP the best university of its kind in the 21st century.

**Bernie L. Patterson is chancellor for the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point.**

<http://www.stevenspointjournal.com/article/20111230/SPJ04/112300348/Column-Fall-term-yields-several-accomplishments-UWSP?odyssey=mod>