

Your Sea Gull Stadium



On Thursday, April 7, 2016, the gates opened to the new \$19 million Sea Gull Stadium.

"For years, SU has boasted championship teams and athletes. They now have a championship stadium," said SU President Janet Dudley-Eshbach. "We hope this beautiful addition to the University's growing athletics complex will become a second home to sports aficionados throughout the region."

Although the facility was built with a majority of University funds, thanks are offered to all of the private donors who played a significant part in enhancing the facility, including, but not limited to, Draper Holdings, The Whiting-Turner Contracting Company, Dan '94 and Stacey '91 Quinn, The Sposato Family, Lili '09 M'11 and Alexis Leonard, and Daniel H. Gladding '78.

The original plans of the stadium obviously included lockers for the four locker rooms (field hockey, football, men's lacrosse and women's lacrosse); however, a stretched budget allowed only for tall metal lockers, very similar to what currently exists in Maggs Center. With the student-athletes, coaches and Athletics staff only wanting the best for this new facility, the locker campaign was created.

Alumni, friends and fans of Salisbury were able to donate \$1,000 to help offset

the costs to upgrade to 235 wooden, open-faced lockers, similar to what you'd find in the professional athletics setting. Donors of all ages with varying experiences and involvement with SU contributed. With this contribution, the donor was able to name the locker. A 2"x12" plate is affixed to the top of each indicating its sponsor.

The men's lacrosse locker room was the first to have all 50 of its lockers named.

"The players came into the locker for the first time, directly from practice. Their faces lit up as they entered, shouting, high-fiving and pointing to the donor plaques at the top of the lockers," said Athletic Development Officer Erin Smith '09 M'11. "I felt so fortunate to witness those initial reactions."

Head Field Hockey Coach Dawn Chamberlin has been actively soliciting to have her last three lockers named before the season begins this fall, wanting her team to walk into a fully named locker room. She shared, "I am very proud to bring recruits to our new facility, and our locker room ... really 'wows' them. I cannot thank our donors enough for their contributions, which have given our new home that definitive championship look and feel."

Meanwhile, Head Football Coach Sherman Wood can't stop sharing stories of each donor listed at the top, including Jeffery Braxton '87. Braxton is currently the

offensive line coach of the Wesley Wolverines football team, Salisbury's major rival. Wood explained, "Your Alma Mater holds a special place in your heart."

Another sentimental gift came from Wade Manis '84, a football and wrestling alumnus, who sponsored a locker in memory of late Coach Mike McGlinchey. There are still lockers left to name of the 125 in the football locker room.

The women's lacrosse locker room features lockers named by groups, including the 2010 team, which won Salisbury's first women's lacrosse national championship. Families also pulled their resources: the Ackermann sisters and Koolage sisters are represented. There are lockers still available.

Gladding named six lockers in the field hockey, football and women's lacrosse locker rooms, "Each of the six lockers I named feature someone who has a special connection to SU and a special connection to me" he shared.

Senior men's lacrosse captain Davis Anderson (#35) said it best: "We feel so honored and lucky to be the first lacrosse team to call the new stadium and locker room home. We are so grateful for the alumni who donated our lockers and who will always have our back no matter what. Go Gulls!"