

Bigger and Better: The New Athletic Facilities

By Katie Hiestand

About ten years ago, a dream of Wittenberg having one all-encompassing facility containing an indoor track and football field, batting cages, weight rooms, and much more came into existence. On October 22, 2019, that dream became a reality with the grand opening of The Steemer, donated by alumnae Wes Bates... along with renovations of the Health, Wellness, and Athletics building (HWA) and HPER Center.



In February of 2017, the 1929 building (HWA) was vacated as construction began for major renovations consisting of new classrooms, offices, locker rooms, and the addition of a second athletic training facility, donated by the Kremchek family. Then, in March of 2019, the restoration of the 1929 Fieldhouse was completed. Lastly, in September of 2019, the renovations of the 1982 HPER Center were finished. These renovations mainly included a new arena floor, jumbotron, locker rooms, and offices.

The Steemer and existing facilities' renovations could not have happened without the generous hearts of Wittenberg alumni, who have donated time and money into this process. These new facilities not only provide places to gather, compete, and train, but they also allow for people to see what is possible at Wittenberg when people come together with a vision for the betterment of the entire community.

The new and improved facilities are unmatched to similar schools of Wittenberg's size and enrollment as it provides the entire campus with tremendous flexibility and space for different events and all sorts of training. According to former Wittenberg Athletic Director, Gary Williams, "The greatest impact that the Steemer will bring to our campus is its ability to bring our community together and provide a distinct competitive advantage for Wittenberg in recruiting students and student-athletes...[these buildings] will touch the lives of so many people in varied and unique ways and will be something that will instill an immense amount of pride in those of us who are fortunate to be Wittenberg Tigers."