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*Report of  
Private Support*

UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE

# New Rullo Stadium fulfills dreams of students

The dedication of Fred P. Rullo Stadium Sept. 18 was a family affair, as relatives of the new facility's namesake and members of the UD athletics family gathered to celebrate the newest addition to the David M. Nelson Athletics Complex.

The state-of-the-art, artificial turf stadium, located just south of the Bob Carpenter Sports/Convocation Center, was made possible, in part, by the generous donation of one UD alumnus: Fred P. Rullo Jr. of Bryn Mawr, Pa., AS '63, a former letterwinner in football and baseball. He and his wife, Madeleine, gave the University \$1 million toward the \$3.3 million cost of the stadium.

The new stadium, home to the women's field hockey team, also will be used for men's and women's lacrosse practices and home games; football, baseball and softball practices; men's and



Keith W. Heckert

At the dedication, President David P. Roselle repeated his words from the news conference when the Rullo gift was first announced. "I said at the press conference several months ago that 'nothing ever built rose to touch the skies unless someone dreamed it should, someone dreamed it could and someone willed that it must.' The must was an artificial turf stadium and the reality was the \$1 million gift of Fred P. and Madeleine Rullo."

The 2,000-seat Rullo Stadium features an artificial turf surface covering 122,928 square feet (2.82 acres). Called Action-Turf-55, this knitted nylon artificial turf system with urethane foam secondary backing is laid over a 1.5-inch-thick elastic shock pad made of

pulverized rubber mixed with washed gravel and held together with liquid urethane binder.

The field is watered before field hockey play and practice by four sprinklers, which deliver 400 gallons of water a minute, throwing it 200 feet.

"This magnificent stadium has been a dream—at times a distant dream—but, today, Fred P. Rullo Stadium takes its place as the latest treasure in the David M. Nelson Athletics Complex, the final jewel in the athletics crown," Edgar N. Johnson, UD's director of intercollegiate athletics, said at the dedication.

In his remarks Sept. 18, Johnson attributed UD's athletics success to three factors: "Good, hardworking student-athletes playing for quality coaches in outstanding facilities." He said Rullo Stadium will directly benefit the competitive standing of the field hockey team and also will make a difference for the University's

nationally ranked men's and women's lacrosse teams.

"Rullo Stadium opens up a world of possibilities not only for our athletics program, but also for our students who participate in UD recreational, intramural and club sports programs," Johnson said. "There are uses for Rullo Stadium that we have not yet envisioned, and Rullo Stadium will allow us to be creative in offering activities that will both enrich our campus and be fun for the participants."

Also at the ceremony, Jennifer Amoroso, a senior field hockey player, expressed her appreciation to everyone involved for "making this dream come true."

"But, most of all," she said, "I would like to thank Mr. and Mrs. Rullo on behalf of all the students and athletes who will be fortunate enough to use the field."

"We will never forget all that you have done for us," Amoroso said. "Your generosity has placed you in all of the students' hearts forever. We will think of both of you every time we walk through the gates of Fred P. Rullo Stadium."

R.R.M. Carpenter III, trustee and chairperson of the Committee on Student Life and Athletics, officially dedicated the



Jack Buxbaum

*Kelly Cawley, '99AS, field hockey co-captain, and head coach Carol Miller thank Fred and Madeleine Rullo for their generous gift to the University.*

women's soccer practices and occasional home games; physical education classes; intramural and recreation program events; high school field hockey and lacrosse championships; and Special Olympics events.



Jack Buxbaum

*Fred and Madeleine Rullo*



facility, noting that “in the naming and dedication of this stadium, we will add the Rullo family name to a league of others who have been honored here—among them, David Nelson, Roy Rylander, Scotty Duncan and Bill Murray.”

Fred and Madeleine Rullo then joined Carpenter to unveil a facsimile of a plaque that stands at the entrance to Rullo Stadium.

Fred Rullo expressed gratitude to his friends and UD faculty, staff and students, and he gave special thanks to the members of his family who traveled from Florida, California and North Carolina to help celebrate the dedication. The decision to give to the University was a family decision, he said.

And, he said the reason for the gift was simple.

“I’ve had a love affair with the University of Delaware that goes back to the first day I stepped on campus,” Rullo said, attributing his success in life “to my time here in the classrooms and on the playing fields.”

He said the University had the confidence in him to award



Jack Buxbaum

*Taking the field at the new Fred P. Rullo Stadium are members of the Rullo family: (from left) Edna Rullo, Jerry Rullo, Tony Abbott, Carole Abbott, Ted Rullo, Steve Rullo, Madeline Rullo, Steve Rullo, donors Madeleine and Fred P. Rullo Jr., Joe McGrail, Linda McGrail, Patti Fischer, Charlotte Rullo, Michael Fischer, Gene Rullo, Fred P. Rullo III and Beth Rullo. Family members traveled from around the country to attend the dedication ceremony.*

him a full scholarship when it was really needed, and that he was appreciative of his education, as well as the educations that his two daughters and his son-in-law received at UD.

Rullo also said the University provided him with many great memories and “a list of friends as long as my arm.” Several of those friends were in attendance at the dedication.

“I am truly humbled to have

my name affixed to this stadium,” he said.

At the conclusion of the ceremony, the stadium scoreboard was unveiled, and it carried a special message of thanks to the Rullos.

# Gift builds Library's Delmarva history collection

The University of Delaware has received a gift of \$100,000 from alumnus Ronald M. Finch, AS '56. Finch worked with John M. Clayton Jr., assistant director of planned giving, on the details of his gift and the subsequent provisions to increase the fund provided to the University in his estate plan to at least \$1 million.

Upon his death, two things will happen. Finch's unique Delmarva history collection of books, manuscripts, brochures, maps, etchings, prints and paintings, which he has amassed during his lifetime, will be given to the Special Collections Department of the University Library. And, the fund, previously described, will be divided into two equal portions.

The first portion will create an endowed professorship memorializing his mother, Elizabeth Dorothy Carlisle Finch. This endowed professorship, in the Department of History, will provide for teaching, study, research and publication on the history of the Delmarva Peninsula.

The second portion will create the Ronald Milton Finch Delmarva History Collection Fund, one-third of which will establish a monetary stipend for an undergraduate or graduate student enrolled in the University who will assist in curatorial and maintenance responsibilities for the Collection; one-third will provide for the future acquisition of additional material to enhance the Collection; and one-third will be reserved for research and publication of studies that utilize the Delmarva History Collection.

"Dr. Finch's generous gift will greatly strengthen the Library's ability to support research and teaching in the history, culture



Ronald M. Finch

and heritage of the Delmarva Peninsula. His collection is of national significance, and the University of Delaware Library is honored to be its future base," said Susan Brynteson, director of libraries.

As a result of his thorough estate planning, Finch will be assured that his primary interests and objectives will be perpetuated—that the history, culture and heritage of the Delmarva Peninsula, with a particular emphasis and focus on the legacy and heritage of the common man, will be studied and researched.

His wish is, simply, that in-depth demographic studies will be conducted to learn who settled the Delmarva Peninsula, where did they come from, what did they do and how did they succeed. His ultimate goal was

ably stated many years ago by Alexis de Tocqueville in 1835 in his classic *Democracy in America*: "America is the only country in which it has been possible to witness the natural and tranquil growth of society, and where the influence exercised on the future conditions of states by their origin is clearly distinguishable."

Since his graduation from the University of Delaware in 1956, Finch has had varied and interesting experiences. Beginning with his graduate studies, which include a master's degree in history from the University of Pennsylvania and a doctorate in administration from Columbia University, he continued in the public arena as teacher, administrator, board of education president and, subsequently, director of the state of Delaware Division of Historical and

Cultural Affairs.

An avid birder, this Delaware alumnus has personally observed 752 species in North America, a feat that places him in the "top 100" of more than 22,000 birders/listers. He began his birding interest during his early years as an Eagle Scout and camp director at Rodney Scout Reservation on the Chesapeake Bay, and he continued as an undergraduate at UD where he was encouraged and often accompanied by Dr. Quaesita C. Drake, professor of chemistry. He was a charter member of the Lattoniken Club, the parent organization of the current Delaware Ornithological Society.

In addition, Finch's love and knowledge of 18th- and early 19th-century architecture provided the impetus to restore his Cloud's Row home in historic New Castle as well as his present home, Strand Millas, in Montchanin, which he describes as "the oldest rock house in Delaware," having been built before 1700 on a 1683 William Penn land grant.

His lifelong interest in Delaware history began with his mother, Elizabeth Dorothy Carlisle Finch, who, herself, represented the eighth generation on the Peninsula. She related many stories of her ancestors as a way to occupy the family's long hours during the air raid "blackouts" of World War II. To further encourage her son's interest when he was 13 years old, his mother wrote the Archeological Society of Delaware in 1948 requesting he be accepted as a full member. The Society granted her request, and Finch spent many hours on four of the Society's significant excavations in the 1940s: the Lewes Townsend site, the Beaver Valley Rock