



STORYLINE

STORY CONSTRUCTION NEWS & VIEWS

SUMMER 2013



Mike Espeset

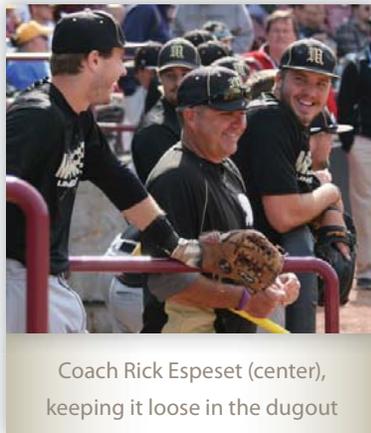
PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

Staying cool

My brother, Rick, is a college baseball coach. He coaches the Manchester University Spartans, a D3 school from northeast Indiana. My brother is very cool. His team had a phenomenal season this year, going 39-7-1. They reached the D3 College World Series in Appleton, WI, over Memorial Day weekend. While that trip did not end up the way we hoped, his team was very cool throughout it all.

This team's senior class set a tone for themselves and the entire program. Their demeanor is the same whether they're ahead or behind on the scoreboard. It is the same whether they're ahead or behind in the count. It is the same whether they make an error or complete a spectacular play. They look unflappable. They are cool. Rick attributes much of the success of this team to the tone set by the seniors to stay focused on the next play and not worry about the last one.

There is a lesson in this for me. It's good to be reminded to focus on the next play and not worry about the last one during any game, be it on the field, in the office or at home. Sure, we must evaluate the game afterward to learn from what went right and what didn't - to improve for the next time. Also, it's important to be working on skills and situations in practice to make sure you are ready when it's game time and the lights are on. But while I'm in the game, I need to stay forward-focused and cool... like the Spartans.



Coach Rick Espeset (center), keeping it loose in the dugout

Rick has had many good teams in his career. I have watched many of them for a few games each year, only getting to know their personality a bit. This team - and the tone set by the seniors - seems to be a very good match for his personality. Cool. Contemplate after the game. Ever forward in the game.

It was a great season. An unforgettable one.

Mike Espeset, President
Story Construction

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FEATURE PROJECT

WebFilings, Ames' cloud-based business, has designs on attracti

Founded in 2008, WebFilings develops and markets cloud-based solutions for business reporting in real time. Hiring has been on the upswing since their beginning, and when the Ames office outgrew their leased space, WebFilings executives set their sights on a new building. Through the partnership of local investors, the ISU Research Park, Iowa State University, the State of Iowa and the Ames Community, the new building will help WebFilings recruit high-tech employees to the Midwest. Just one visit to 2900 University Boulevard, and it's easy to see the attraction.

While it is impossible to list all the building's unique features, some of the highlights include open and adjustable work pods; informal meeting/collaboration spaces with inviting views and amenities; exercise equipment, basketball and racquetball courts (with telescoping walls to convert to regulation handball); locker rooms with showers; offices with 9-1/2 foot entrances and whiteboard walls; lobby featuring an S-curved reception desk flanked by Anamosa Limestone walls and a carved wood-accent wall panel. The kitchen rivals that of any five-star restaurant, and is complete with a brick oven for gourmet pizza and sandwiches as well as a full-time chef.

We wanted the building to be unique and wanted to work with a company that shared that vision. Story Construction exceeded our expectations.

Site grading began in fall 2011 and construction on the 62,000 square-foot facility was initiated in the spring of 2012. The Story project team quickly realized the custom structure design, fixtures, kitchen, workout space and other amenities would rank this as one of Story's preeminent projects. By breaking each step down and completing milestones in a logical fashion, the team has met the challenge of completing the project on time and producing the finished space the owners envisioned. Helpful to this process was the ability of owners to use 3-D fly-through technology to view details down to minute color and finish choices, making it possible to give approvals and make changes literally "on the fly."

EMPLOYEE FOCUS

Valarie Meyer, Assistant Project Manager

HOMETOWN Des Moines, IA; graduate of Lincoln High School

FAMILY Parents; one brother; and two daughters – Meghan (9) and Addison (5)

EMPLOYMENT Interned at Story as ISU student in 1999; joined full-time in 2000

HOBBIES Valarie is a graduate of Iowa State University's Construction Engineering program and has contributed to several projects in her 13 years with Story. Currently, she is working on the WebFilings project and is pleased to have Phase I finished and Phase II progressing on target. With two active growing girls, a dog (a Teddy Bear named Dizzy) and a busy career, Valarie's spare time is scarce. But, this Ankeny resident devotes time to her daughters' soccer, basketball, swimming and theater activities. She also enjoys spending time with friends, playing Bunco, jumping on a trampoline (although at the moment, she's nursing a high-ankle sprain from a recent session) or eating her favorite food – Felix & Oscar's Chicago-style pizza. Valarie says her motto in work and life is, "No regrets. As long as you learn something from an experience, it's worthwhile."



cting the right talent



“Story Construction did a great job building the new WebFilings building,” says Linda Cunningham, Senior Manager Facilities and Real Estate. “Bill Bowman was very responsive to our ever-changing needs and timelines. Val Meyer kept everything on track with vendors and all those fine details. Rob Greenwood was always there to answer questions and keep the project running smoothly. I have worked on many projects and this was one of the best teams I have ever worked with; they were always professional, very detailed and understood our needs. We wanted the building to be unique and wanted to work with a company that shared that vision. Story Construction exceeded our expectations.”

The WebFilings building is drawing attention from the high-tech market and helping to lure new employees to Ames. In anticipation of continued growth, with the Phase I building completed, Phase II has already begun.

“Thank you to the entire Story Construction team for your continued efforts in all phases of construction of the new WebFilings facility. The communication between contractors and WebFilings was at times challenged by the many complexities of such a large-scale endeavor, yet Story always kept their composure and helpful demeanor through it all, assisting to meet each and every request from our staff. Special thanks to Bill, Rob, Val, Kai [Kai Kilen, Project Engineer] and, of course, John [Whaley, Foreman] for a great job.”
~ Mike Myers, Ames Facility Manager



Client: WebFilings; ISU Research Park; 2900 University, LLC

Delivery Method: General Contractor

Architect: FEH Associates

Project Manager: Bill Bowman

Assistant Project Manager: Valarie Meyer

Project Superintendent: Rob Greenwood

Project Size: 62,000 square feet

Completion: Phase I – June 2013

Story always kept their composure and helpful demeanor through it all, assisting to meet each and every request from our staff.



Open, flexible workspaces facilitate team collaboration



A full-time chef serves a variety of lunch options



Several 'grab-n-go' areas provide beverages and snacks for employees



PROJECT FOCUS

Ft. Madison Health Center enhances space with additions & renovations

Ft. Madison Health Center is a skilled-nursing facility in Ft. Madison, IA, a city in the SE corner of the state with a population of just over 11,000. The Health Center provides standard elder care services plus Respite, Hospice and Alzheimer’s care.

Story Construction worked with the owner, Inhance Corporation, providing Design+Build services for additions and renovations to an existing facility. The design was provided by Story Ltd., Story’s in-house design firm. Additions include a wing for in-house physical therapy, giving much needed space to conduct therapy for both permanent and temporary residents. Another new space is the administration area which provides offices for staff plus a new covered main entrance and a warm and welcoming lobby area.

The renovations to the center include interior upgrades next to each addition plus the conversion of one large room into a cozier place for residents and guests to gather for meals, conversation and other activities.

Client: Inhance Corporation
Delivery Method: Design+Build
Designer: John Snyder, AIA, DBIA Story Design, Ltd.
Project Manager: Larry Dix
Project Superintendent: Bruce Skahill
Project Size: 9,800 square feet
Complete : May 2013

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