Jack Kidwell, left, of Columbus, Ohio, and Philip A. Wogan of Topsfield, Mass., recently were elected Fellows of the American Society of Golf Course Architects. They join a distinguished group of society members 70 or older who have given "long and valuable service to golf course architecture and the ASGCA."

Silva, Borland, Dasher

Bruce Borland of Arlington Heights, Ill., Robert M. "Mike" Dasher of Orlando, Fla., and Brian M. Silva of Whitinsville, Mass., have been elected regular members of the American Society of Golf Course Architects. All had been associate members since 1986. The society, headquartered in Chicago, Ill., comprises leading golf course architects in the United States and Canada.

A 1981 graduate of the University of Illinois in landscape architecture, Borland was among the first golf architects to use a computer in the actual design of a golf course.

In the mid-1980s he adapted a computer program in order to analyze golf designs in terms of optimum shot values, club selection sequence and balance.

Borland recently launched Pro Golf Design, a Chicago-based golf course architectural firm specializing in the design and remodeling of public and private golf courses throughout the U.S.

He is a contributing editor for Par Excellence magazine.

Dasher received bachelor's and master's degrees in civil engineering from Georgia Institute of Technology and is a member of the American Society of Civil Engineers.

From 1973 to 1980 Dasher was employed as a project superintendent for the Woodworth Co., one of the largest golf course contractors in the United States. He has built and supervised golf courses for architects in Illinois, Wisconsin, Indiana and Georgia.

He joined the golf design firm of Arthur Hills and Associates in 1980, and runs the Southeast section. As a master of science in construction management, he's primarily responsible for on-site construction programs.

Bruce Borland

A two-year member of the Georgia Tech golf team, Dasher remains a low single-digit handicapper at his home course, Dubsread Country Club in Orlando, where he lives "a half wedge-shot from the seventh tee."


Four other nominees did not receive the majority of votes necessary to become associate members.

After three years the ASGCA membership will vote in a show of hands on the new associates for inclusion as regular members.

Pete, Dye, outgoing president of the American Society of Golf Course Architects, congratulates his successor, Robert Trent Jones Jr., center, of Palo Alto, Calif., during the group's recent annual meeting in Pinehurst, N.C.

Left to right are Tom Clark of Wheaton, Md., secretary; Dye of Delray Beach, Fla.; Jones; Dan Maples of Pinehurst, vice president; and Arthur Hills of Toledo, Ohio, treasurer.

Nicklaus heads group of new associate members

Jack Nicklaus and seven others have been named associate members of the American Society of Golf Course Architects.

The ASGCA members in secret ballot voted in Nicklaus, Fred Bliss of Santa Rosa, Calif., Bruce Pete Dye, left, presents the ASGCA's Donald Ross Award to longtime Golf World Magazine editor Dick Taylor. Taylor was cited for "his writing that created a greater understanding of golf course architecture and architects."

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Hills in constructing Southern Trace Country Club in Shreveport, La., and Standard Club in Atlanta, Ga.

Silva early was introduced to golf course construction by his father, John, a much-sought-after bulldozer operator and shaper of golf course features.

The elder Silva often permitted his son to operate a dozer at home. Brian would push earth around for hours, experimenting with shapes.

He also studied the plans and specifications of many golf architects, and watched as his father executed those plans on the ground.

Silva obtained an associate degree in turf management from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture of the University of Massachusetts in 1973. He then taught at the school under the renowned Dr. Joseph Troll while working on his bachelor's degree in landscape architecture, which he obtained in 1979.

Silva was an instructor of agronomy for three years at Lake City (Fla.) Community College, and in 1981 received a Distinguished Service Award from the Florida Turfgrass Association.

He then returned to Massachusetts as an agronomist in the USGA Green Section's Northeast region.

In 1983 Silva joined veteran golf architect Geoffrey S. Cornish of Amherst, Mass., as a partner in the firm of Cornish and Silva, Inc., fulfilling his boyhood dream of becoming a golf course designer.

His first 18-hole design, The Captains Golf Course in Brewster, Mass., was selected by Golf Digest magazine as the Best New Public Course of 1985.

An unabashed fan of Donald Ross, Silva studied the architect's works extensively, and authored a comprehensive critique of Ross.

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