

MGCSA Announces Five 1998-99 Student Scholars

Four Get Association Awards; Fifth Is New Trans-Miss/MGCSA Grant

Four students have been announced as the recipients of the 1998-99 MGCSA Scholarships and a fifth has been given the new Trans-Mississippi/MGCSA Scholarship. Each grant is for \$1,000.

The Stodola scholarships have been awarded since 1989, with much of the funds coming from the Scholarship Scramble golf outing, this year held at Elm Creek Golf Links of Plymouth.

The Trans-Mississippi Golf Association, working with the Minnesota Golf Course Superintendents, has been developing a series of fundraisers to provide scholarships to "Minnesota-connected" students. (See Story on Page 25.)

"Each of the students selected has much to offer our industry," said John Queensland, chair of the MGCSA's Scholarship Committee. "They should do well at their respective schools."

The MGCSA scholarship award winners are:

Mike Harrington, Delafield, Wisc., a student at the University of Minnesota who has worked at Midland Hills in St. Paul and Wayzata Country Club;

Kristine E. Ramsey, Rochester, Minn., Rochester Community College, who was on the grounds crew at Willow Creek in Rochester;

David Swift, Sherburn, Minn., Penn State University, who has been at Fox Lake Golf Club in Sherburn, Interlaken in Fairmont, The Wilds in Prior Lake and the Club at Cordillera in Edwards, Colo.;

Chad Wilson, Utica, Minn., Iowa State University, whose golf course maintenance experience has been at St. Charles Golf Club, St. Charles, Minn.; Pinehurst Resort, Pinehurst, N.C.; Country Club of the Rockies, Edwards, Colo., and the Department of Horticulture at Iowa State.

The Trans-Mississippi/MGCSA winner is:

Riley Kieffer, Nisswa, Minn., Michigan State University, whose work experience has been at Madden's Resort near Brainerd and the Country Club of the Rockies in Edwards, Colo.;

Mike Harrington, 23, was graduated from Marquette University High School in 1993 and expects to complete his four-year course in environmental horticulture and turf management next Spring with thoughts of managing a golf course and eventually designing one.

In high school he played for Delafield's state champion golf team, won various educational honors and also has been awarded the Vincent K. Bailey Scholarship for horticulture excellence.

Mike, a member of the GCSAA Student Resource Group and president of the University of Minnesota Turf Club, said that he "loved golf all through high school," then decided to get involved in turf management "as a way to be associated with the game."

His outside-of-school activities include the MGCSA,

GCSAA, Rocky Mountain Golf Association and the USGA.

Riley Kieffer, 23, was graduated from Brainerd Senior High School in 1993, then studied at Brainerd Community College and St. John's University before enrolling at Michigan State University. He intends to graduate next March.

In high school he was captain of the Brainerd football and hockey teams and won all-conference honors in both sports. At Michigan State he is treasurer of the Turf Club for 1998-99.

"When I received my first job on a golf course is when I began to realize my interest in turf management," Kieffer said. "My goal is to be a superintendent and this (majoring in turf management) is the best road for me to travel in order to reach that goal."

Kristine E. Ramsey, 27, was graduated from Peterson (Minn.) High School, then attended Winona State University for one year before transferring to Rochester Community and Technical College where her major is landscape grounds and golf course management. In high school she

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Scholarships—

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was active in contest speaking, cheerleading, the school's pep and marching bands and drama. At college she has been an honor student who made the dean's list. She also has won various military honors, was a high school cheerleading captain and was a student senate representative at RCTC. She also is a member of the school's horticulture club.

Said Kristine: "I've always found soil science exciting and, with my motivation to become more knowledgeable on how to improve and understand not only turf but also trees, shrubs and flowers, I believe I can excel in this major."

David C. Swift, 21, is a 1995 graduate of Martin County West High School, attended Anoka Hennepin Technical College and now is in the two-year turfgrass management program at Pennsylvania State University where he plans to graduate next March.

In high school he was a "B" honor roll student, had a 3.01 grade point average at Anoka Tech and has a 3.41 GPA at Penn State.

In high school he was an all-conference golfer, advanced to his section's golf tournament for four years and finished 25th in the 1995 state tournament. David also was a member of Interlaken's state champion junior team and played in the Cutter Cup which pits Penn State turf students against turf majors from Michigan State. In high school he also played football and was a member of the Future Farmers of America. At Penn State he is a member of the Turf Club. Outside activities include the MGCSA, Fox Lake Conservation League and Ducks Unlimited.

"My whole life has revolved around golf," Swift said. "My father is a golf course superintendent at Fox Lake Golf Club, and I've known my whole life that I wanted to be one, too. I learned at any early age that there's more to maintaining a golf course than mowing grass. I love the feeling a golfer has when he's playing on a well-maintained golf course. I have been working with my father and other golf course superintendents and at each course things are done differently. I always wanted to know why everything was done."

Chad Wilson, 20, was graduated from St. Charles High School in 1996 and now is a student majoring in horticulture/turfgrass management at Iowa State University.

At St. Charles he won an Academic Letter, DAR Good Citizen Award and a Winona Excellence in Education award while being an honor student.

A three-year letterman in high school golf and captain of his team for two years, he also was president of the St. Charles Area Youth Task Force, president of the St. Matthew Lutheran Church Youth Group and now is treasurer and vice president of the Iowa State University Turfgrass Club.

At St. Charles he also was active in band, chorus, show choir, Spanish Club and basketball and was named to the National Honor Society.

Along with his Turfgrass Club activity at Iowa State, Chad is a student member of the GCSAA's Resource Group, a student member of the MGCSA and GCSAA and a student member of the Iowa Golf Course Superintendents Association. He also has won a variety of scholarship awards.

Said Chad: "When I was a freshman in high school, my parents introduced me to the game of golf. I began working on a local 18-hole course and fell in love with golf course maintenance and knew that was what I was supposed to do. Through my work experience I have found that being a golf course superintendent brings exciting challenges daily. To meet these challenges requires knowledge of all aspects of turfgrass management."

Trans-Mississippi Works With MGCSA to Raise Funds for Scholarships

Two years ago two Minnesota directors of the Trans-Mississippi Golf Association organized plans for various ways to raise money for Minnesota students or Minnesota-connected students pursuing careers in the turf industry.

Since then Tom Garrett, a member of Somerset Country Club in St. Paul, and Hank Wilkinson, a member of The Minikahda Club, Minneapolis, have seen their original invitational at Somerset grow into two other fundraisers at Minikahda and Hazeltine National Golf Club in Chaska.

The third Somerset Invitational, which features an alternate shot format, will be held at the St. Paul course on October 16.

At Minikahda a modest event now known as the "Charlie Erickson Memorial Tournament" was begun a year ago. Now on October 3 it will have about 120 members and maintenance staff employees participating in a special scramble. Erickson was a golf course superintendent at Minikahda. At Hazeltine, members Tim Andersen and Mark Polich developed a Memorial Day event which also involves the maintenance crew playing with members.

These golf competitions are aimed specifically at providing funds for Minnesota turf students or students from other parts of the country attending Minnesota schools.

Both Wilkinson and Garrett, noting that the various tournaments are a lot of fun competitively, said they also provide related benefits, not the least being member knowledge of what it takes to maintain a golf course but also to get to know several members of the maintenance staff whose responsibility it is to care for the course.

They now work closely with John Queensland, chair of the MGCSA's Scholarship Committee. This year the \$1,000 Trans-Mississippi/MGCSA Scholarship was awarded to Rilkey Kieffer, a Nisswa, Minn. student at Michigan State.