Joseph S. Garske Legacy Awards Fund
Scholarship Grants for Tenth Consecutive Year

Named after the founder of Par Aide Products Co., the Joseph S. Garske Legacy Awards now are in their tenth year of funding two scholarship grants to children and grandchildren of MGCSA Members. The Par Aide firm, located in Lino Lakes, contributes $3,000 annually, divided into two grants. This year Brittania Panuska, daughter of MGCSA President Robert Panuska, at Waseca Lakeside Club, received her second grant of $1,500. Brittania is a sophomore student majoring in Biology at Wartburg College in Iowa.

Awarded her first $1,500 grant for the 2005-06 school year was Nicole Lohman, daughter of Guy and Jane Lohman, superintendent and assistant at Voyager Village Country Club. Nicole will be a sophomore student majoring in archaeology at the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse.

The late Mr. Garske, who died at the age of 76 in 1982, started Par Aide in 1954 with plans to make a “good” ball washer. A foundry man and avid golfer, he knew little about the golf business, tried to sell his ideas for design and tooling to two accessory companies, was turned down by both and so began Par Aide Products Company.

The Garske scholarships were started in 1996 by Joseph Garske’s son, Steve, who noted that his father “was an orphan with only a sixth grade education and was self-conscious about his lack of formal schooling, but he always wanted to help young people with their education.”

“I am pleased to have our company provide these scholarships since for many superintendents, providing a college education for their children requires true sacrifice. I am fortunate to have the opportunity and ability to help,” Garske said.

“As a long-time member of the Scholarship Committee some years ago, it always bothered me that we had lots of scholarships available for turf students but nothing for the legacy of current members,” Garske said.

So it seemed obvious to Steve to initiate a legacy program. The problem was how to administer such a program. Suppliers to our industry did not want to be in a position of judging one potential recipient/customer against another, and Superintendent members were not comfortable with reviewing personal information and making judgments on each other either. The committee came across Scholarship America, which does nothing but review and award scholarships. It’s completely impartial and considers all information confidential.

The MGCSA quickly agreed to accept the cost of administration and the Joseph S. Garske Legacy was born. The idea was to provide two two-year scholarships to deserving legacy of current MGCSA members. This program is thought to have been successful by all and has been in existence since 1996, helping numerous sons and daughters of Superintendents pursue their college education.

Par Aide has continued to prosper and as an expansion of its Minnesota program it now also offers a similar program nationwide through the GCSAA.

Winner of this year’s MGCSA Legacy Award is Laura Walton, daughter of Pat and Jody Walton. Pat is currently working for Reinders. Laura will be a sophomore student majoring in English at the Morris campus of the University of Minnesota.