

Clunis, Johnson, Meier and Norby Receive MGCSA and Garske Legacy Scholarships



KIRA CLUNIS



BEN JOHNSON



MEGAN MEIER



JESSICA NORBY

The legacy award named after the founder of Par Aide Products Company, Joseph S. Garske, located in Lino Lakes, Minnesota is committed to further the education of children and grandchildren of MGCSA members through financial contributions. This is the 16th consecutive year for these awards.

This year, the MGCSA is pleased to award \$1,000 MGCSA Legacy Scholarships to Meagan Meier and Jessica Norby, a \$1,500 Joseph S. Garske scholarship to Ben Johnson and a \$1,500 Garske scholarship renewal to Kira Clunis.

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 Legacy Scholarship was started by Steve Garske, son of Joseph Garske, in 1996.

"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. (Heeding the comments of a long-time Minnesota Superintendent that our committee was working to put him out of a job.) While Steve thought this was a bit of paranoid thinking, it did make him realize that sup-

ply and demand works in this industry as well, and if nothing else, an oversupply of eager new superintendents could definitely undermine salaries. However, it was the following that motivated Par Aide to initiate a legacy scholarship program:

"1) Many Superintendents are underpaid, in my opinion, and they truly work a labor of love. Sending a child to college is likely a real hardship. These same Superintendents who now have college age children were the very ones who had been so responsible for supporting our company through all the years and had helped us attain our success. We wanted to thank them.

"2) Our founder, Joe Garske, did not have any formal education and was always conscious of that fact. He had quietly supported at least one young man in gaining a degree.

"3) There were lots of turf student scholarships but few if any Legacy awards."

So it seemed obvious to Steve to initiate a legacy program and it was discussed at numerous scholarship meetings. 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 idea laid dormant until we discovered the Citizens' Scholarship Foundation of America, now called Scholarship America, an organization that 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.

Kira Clunis, the daughter of Kevin and Nancy Clunis. Kevin is the Superintendent at Tanners Brook Golf Course in Forest Lake, Minn. Kira is a graduate of Mahtomedi High School and is now enrolled at St. Olaf College; her major is Sports Psychology.

Ben Johnson, the son of Troy and Jennifer Johnson. Troy is the Superintendent of Hudson Golf Club in Hudson. Ben is a graduate of Hudson High School and now attends the University of Minnesota, majoring in Accounting.

Winners of this year's MGCSA Legacy Scholarships are:

Meagan Meier, the daughter of Tom and Apryl Meier. Tom is the Superintendent at LeSueur Country Club. Meagan is a graduate of Worthington High School. Meagan attends the College of St Benedict where she majors in Biology.

Jessica Norby, the daughter of Kevin and Robin Norby. Kevin is a golf course Architect with Herfort Norby Golf Course Architects. Jessica, a graduate of Chaska High School, is attending Fort Lewis College in Colorado where she is a majoring in Environmental Geology.