Six scholarships were issued at the Sports Turf Managers Association's (STMA) 11th Annual Conference and Exhibition held January 12 to 16, 2000, in St. Louis, Missouri.

The $500 Dr. Fred Grau Scholarship, since 1997 designated for the students of two year technical programs or community colleges, was presented to Joe Damico, a sophomore majoring in the Sports and Commercial Turf Management program of Michigan State University.

This year, STMA awarded two $750 Annual Scholarships for undergraduate students of four-year college or university programs. One was presented to Gabriel Siapin, a junior majoring in the Ornamental Horticulture/Landscape Management Program of Cal Poly Pomona. The other was presented to Ryan Seidenberger, a junior majoring in the Agronomy/Turfgrass Management Program at Texas A & M University.

The first of two scholarships established by The Toro Company in the name of long-time green industry researcher and consultant, Dr. James R. Watson is a $1,000 Scholarship issued to undergraduate student. Matthew Hallman, a senior majoring in Turfgrass Sciences at the Pennsylvania State University was the recipient of this Scholarship.

The second Dr. James R. Watson Scholarship in the amount of $1,500 was issued to graduate student Jay Hudson, who is involved in the graduate program in Horticulture/Turfgrass Management at Iowa State University.

The STMA $1,000 Annual Scholarship for graduate students was presented to Josh Honig who is currently involved in research in the graduate program in Turfgrass Science/Soil Physical Properties at Rutgers University.

STMA recognizes that the future of the industry lies in the education, dedication and commitment of outstanding students such as these.

Funding for the STMA scholarships comes from the membership through participation in the Raffle, Silent and Live Auctions at the Association’s annual Conference held each January, and through special contributions earmarked for the Scholarship Fund. In addition to the monetary award, all of the STMA, Fred Grau and Dr. James R. Watson Scholarship recipients are provided with full registration to the STMA Annual Conference and up to $500 toward their expenses to attend the Conference.