

Scholarly Pursuits

IRECTOR'S COLUMN

The idea of offering a scholarship to the children of MAGCS members originated around three years ago. Then-Board member Greg Thalmann was soon to have three kids in college all at the same time. Greg began to investigate the possibility of the MAGCS sponsoring a scholarship for its members' offspring. It took hard work and countless hours to develop a program, but finally the MAGCS Scholarship is a reality. In 2001, we are giving two \$1,000 scholarships to children of MAGCS members.

This year's scholarship winners are Eric Fischer, son of Ed Fischer, and Brenda Ferreri, daughter of Don Ferreri. Eric is working on his MBA at DePaul University... Brenda is attending the Illinois Institute of Art, where she is pursuing a degree in computer animation. Let me start by explaining how we are funding this scholarship. In 2000, the proceeds from a betting hole were earmarked for the scholarship. In addition, the Board of Directors voted to set aside \$2,000 for the scholarship fund. This year, proceeds from at least two betting holes will support the program. We are also going to hold an MAGCS Scholarship Golf Day. My good friend Ed Braunsky has graciously offered the use of the Geneva Golf Club for this event, which will take place in October. This will be a separate event from our monthly meetings. The field will be limited and all profits will go towards the scholarship fund. I hope this will become an annual event. We are also looking into holding a silent auction this November at the Midwest Turf Clinic. The Scholarship Committee's goal for the future is to be able to award five scholarships each year.

Now that we have the money, to whom do we give it? A notice for the scholarship competition went out with the 2001 dues statement. Several announcements appeared in *On Course* and on the MAGCS Web site. This year, we received eight applications, which were forwarded to the MAGCS office. There, George Minnis assigned a number to each application so that they would remain anonymous. The application contained three categories—economic need, academics and 250-word essay—each of which was assigned a different point value. Independent judges evaluated the essays. Each applicant's points were totaled, and the two applicants with the highest point totals were declared the winners. Seeing how well this system worked, we must commend Greg on a great job developing the application and the SOP.

This year's scholarship winners are Eric Fischer, son of Ed Fischer, and Brenda Ferreri, daughter of Don Ferreri. Eric is working on his MBA at DePaul University. His goal is to one day own his own landscape business. Brenda is attending the Illinois Institute of Art, where she is pursuing a degree in computer animation. She has been on the Dean's honor list three times as well as the President's honor list.

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"fans" talk more about the commercials and Britney Spears' naked belly.

Recently, a blind man climbed Mount Everest. No, he didn't do it on his own. However, we're talking 29,028 feet above sea level where conditions so harsh we can't imagine prevail and the air is so thin that simply breathing is difficult. Try telling him that he should have stayed home. Try telling a Special Olympics athlete that they should consider staying home with a good book. Playing a game, at the highest level a player can, should never be denied and let's hope Casey Martin stares down Tiger Woods in the next Major.

-Vedand

Director's Column (continued from page 7)

Congratulation to both Eric and Brenda for a job well done. I hope to have both of them on hand at the July meeting for presentation of their checks.

I would be remiss if I did not take this opportunity to thank the Scholarship Committee: Greg Thalmann, Fred Behnke, Ed Braunsky, Mike O'Neil, Damon Soderberg and Paul Yerkes. Their hard work ensured that a complex process went smoothly. Also, many thanks to the membership for electing me to my current position of vice president and supporting this worthwhile member service.

The MAGCS Scholarship is open to all who have been members in good standing for at least two years. Look for the call for applications with your 2002 dues statement.

Mulligans

In the June issue of *On Course*, a caption accompanying the president's message incorrectly identified Brian Bossert's wife as Bailey. Brian is in fact married to the lovely Pam; Bailey is their darling daughter. Your editor, who is already confusing the names of her two, young, opposite-gender children, deeply regrets the mistake.

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