



**I**t was in the midst of the Civil War (1862) when President Abraham Lincoln signed the Morrill Act. The act provided federal land for sale to establish and finance public universities. With the enactment of the Morrill

Act, higher education — which at the time consisted of private colleges and universities for the elite — changed to a system where the general population had university access to education, research and something radical at the time that we call extension or outreach. The land grant mission established within the act is fundamentally about democracy, equality and access.

Established in this country's most perilous time (consider two World Wars, the Great Depression, the campus unrest of the 1960s and now the global market), the mission or *what* land grant universities do — research, education and extension — has not changed. Through its existence universities have provided a stabilizing influence against the latest buzzword, fad or slogan — an anchor in a world full of change. This stabilizing effect is often reflected in the loyalty people have, almost like a religious loyalty, toward an institution. We see this loyalty within turfgrass programs among golf course superintendents and staff toward their alma mater.

Although what we do essentially remains the same, how we accomplish our mission of teaching, research and outreach undergoes constant challenge and change both from within and outside the institution. From an educational perspective the students and their families are assuming a greater burden of the educational cost, which is probably no surprise to those currently paying tuition and housing costs. To provide a perspective, in 1985 a student attending The Ohio State University contributed roughly 35 percent of the total educational cost, while the government, both state and federal, provided 65 percent. In 2005, those percentages flip-flopped. The burden no doubt will continue to shift more to the student, raising the question of affordable access.

With regard to turfgrass students, rising costs along with a downturn in the golf industry is reflected in many turfgrass program enrollments declining or remaining flat. The availability of

# The Challenges of Land Grant Schools

BY KARL DANNEBERGER



**TURFGRASS  
PROGRAMS NEED  
TO STAY ENGAGED  
IN DETERMINING  
THE NEEDS  
AND MEANS  
BY HOW WE CAN  
PROVIDE A BETTER  
GOLF WORLD.**

employment and starting salaries, like most majors, is a regulating force on student numbers.

The majority of turfgrass research is conducted at land grant institutions. We have seen a steady erosion in state and federal funding for science. With the decline in the monies provided by state and regional turfgrass foundations, along with reductions in golf related funding agencies like the USGA, the type of applied and basic turfgrass research that has been influenced by the turf industry will be guided more by government-directed competitive funding sources, which may or may not relate to industry needs.

The greatest change and challenge in the land grant mission is occurring with extension or outreach. The dissemination of information to the industry and the public has resulted in a better quality of life in general, and specifically a higher and environmentally sound quality of turf. That this information is “free” is difficult to sustain in a current world where everything we do must pay for itself.

For turfgrass programs at land grant institutions and the golf industry, we need to stay engaged in determining the needs and means by how we can provide a better golf world.

Whatever the challenges, land grant institutions will play an important role in the golf industry due to our inherent comprehensive nature. Dr. Roger Geiger, distinguished professor of higher education at Penn State, stated in a recent conference, “I think the distinctive mission of land-grant universities is to provide access to expertise, which they have developed and cultivated.”

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*Karl Danneberger, Ph.D., Golfdom's science editor and a professor at The Ohio State University can be reached at Danneberger.1@osu.edu.*



# Under Pressure

With dwindling support from the outside, state turf schools are forced to rethink how they operate.

BY JOHN WALSH

As state governments throughout the country slash spending to solve huge budget shortfalls, some entities, such as school districts, are experiencing sudden, drastic cuts. They're being shocked to the core. Everything states support financially is being scrutinized.

Much like school districts, state universities haven't been able to avoid the knife. For example, Pennsylvania Governor Tom Corbett proposed to cut Penn State University's funding by more than 50 percent. When the dust settled, the school took a hit of 19 percent, to the tune of about \$68 million. Penn State was forced to cut expenses, including a significant reduction in staff, and raised tuition by 3 to 5 percent. In the past 10 years, tuition at the school has increased by 110 percent.

However, the school's robust turfgrass program has been funded steadily, although there have been no increases in the past 10 years, says Peter Landschoot, Ph.D., a professor in the department of crop and soil sciences. The university has been able to grow because of an increase in enrollment and a better record of obtaining grants and private donations, Landschoot says.

Reducing funding for higher education has been going on for more than six years in New Jersey, says







Rutgers University's funding, as a whole, has been cut about 8 percent each year. And the total dollar amount for turfgrass research from the state this year is the same as it was in 1994.

Bruce Clarke, Ph.D., vice-chair of the department of plant biology and pathology at Rutgers University. The university's funding, as a whole, has been cut about 8 percent each year. And the total dollar amount for turfgrass research from the state this year is the same as it was in 1994.

"This year is the first year we're getting the same as we did the previous year," Clarke says. "The bleeding has stopped."

Rutgers also is receiving less grant money from the GCSAA and USGA.

"The GCSAA hasn't had funding for research in two years," Clarke says. "It isn't entertaining new proposals because the economy in New Jersey isn't all that great."

At its high-water mark in 2008, the GCSAA funded (via the Environmental Institute for Golf) \$270,000 to turfgrass research. This year, the GCSAA can only provide \$40,000 to invest in research.

### Closing time

An even more extreme example is the closing of the Turf Pathology Diagnostic Laboratory at University of California-River-



State universities are a vital component to the success of many golf courses throughout the nation. Pictured clockwise from top, field days at such schools as Iowa State, North Carolina State, Kansas State and Ohio State help superintendents learn of regional problems and solutions.



side in March after years of state cuts.

"The state is \$30 to \$40 million in debt — we knew we were in bad shape," says Frank Wong, Ph.D., who used to manage the lab. "We'd been suffering for the past few years. The

new governor, Jerry Brown, cut education. The numbers are funny because they change every month. But at the end of the day, there's less state funding for applied turfgrass research."

There's been a steady degradation of state funding in California during the past several years. When Wong first arrived at UC-Riverside, he hired a research technician, which was budgeted at \$50,000. Then the state cut that amount bit by bit, and over nine years, the various cuts equaled the cost of a person.

"That makes it difficult to quantify in the operating budget because it's not immediate," he says.

Wong, who has since taken a position with Bayer Environmental Science (see sidebar, page 22), used various funds for the lab in addition to the state's, and when one particular

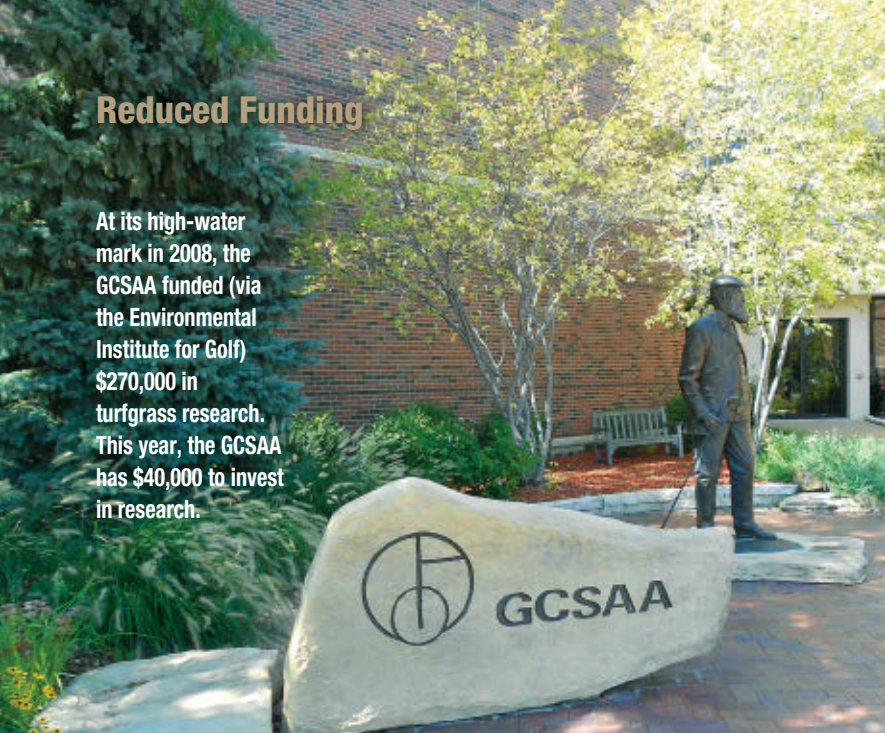
*Continued on page 20*





## Reduced Funding

At its high-water mark in 2008, the GCSAA funded (via the Environmental Institute for Golf) \$270,000 in turfgrass research. This year, the GCSAA has \$40,000 to invest in research.



of service,” he says. “The market in California for diagnostics differs from the East Coast because disease pressure is less. I’d get 400 to 500 requests a year — and the true cost per sample is \$250.”

Wong says universities need to restructure revenue streams and operate like businesses, which is different than the old days when labs acted as a public service because of state and federal support.

Superintendents in California aren’t happy about not having a local diagnostics resource, Wong says, adding there were large numbers of superintendents who said they’d give him anything he needed to keep the lab open because it represented more than just diagnostics, and there were other superintendents who asked,

“OK, who do I send my samples to now?”

Sending samples out of state to be diagnosed can be done, but it’s not the best option because out-of-state labs don’t know local climates as well as the locals, Wong says.

Wong says, historically, California has been a state that doesn’t have a history of funding comparable to New Jersey,

*Continued from page 19*

source fell apart, everything crumbled. Wong needed at least \$80,000 to keep the program operating. He was receiving \$25,000 from the state and \$40,000 from businesses in the industry, but he still needed to fill a \$40,000 gap.

“You don’t have any flexibility with funding with that kind

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Pennsylvania or Ohio because the relationship between the industry and the university isn't on the same level.

"We've made it work," he says. "My program benefitted from the GCSAA and the Environmental Institute for Golf."

### How it operates

Rutgers is somewhat unique because its turfgrass program is built around a breeding program, which started in 1964. Revenue generated from seed — which is licensed to companies because the university doesn't sell directly to superintendents — helps fund the program and research. Additionally, the university receives grants steadily from different sources, Clarke says. Those funds support faculty teaching, extension work and research.



“We’d be in a lot of trouble if we depended solely on state funds. You have to fund your research and beat the bushes for money. I’m not turning down anything right now.” — PETER LANDSCHOOT

"We picked up more technical support that was cut a couple years ago that has to be picked up with a grant," he says. "That's why research grants are important."

The number of undergrads in the Rutgers program has declined for a number of years because of the economic recession and how that's impacted the golf industry.

"But we still have a good number of students and are teaching the same number of classes," Clarke says.

Universities are making a big transition to a more tuition-based business model, Landschoot says, adding that tuition funds professor salaries.

"A lot of universities are phasing out programs that aren't strong, but we're not in that boat," he says. "Our program is very strong. We're a leader."

"Our enrollment has leveled off because of the economy, but the numbers are sustainable," he adds. "That's expected. There hasn't been a sharp decline in numbers. The turfgrass program is one of the stronger programs in the school, and the online program is doing great because fewer people want to come to campus to earn a degree."

*Continued on page 22*

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## Reduced Funding

# Dr. Wong Gets the Girl

Leaving UC Riverside behind and accepting a job with Bayer in Washington, D.C., Frank Wong gets to be with his bride. BY SETH JONES

**Editor's note:** This story originally ran as *Golfdom's* newsletter "Chip Shots." Visit [www.golfdom.com](http://www.golfdom.com) to sign up for *Golfdom's* newsletters.

It was an easy decision, Frank Wong, Ph.D., laughs, because it involved a woman.

"It was a no-brainer," he giggles. "You get the job that you wanted, in the place that you wanted, and you get the girl too. It's an absolute slam-dunk."

Wong, who previously was a specialist of plant pathology at the University of California-Riverside, accepted a job that moves him across the country to Washington, D.C. He's now a technical service specialist for Bayer's Environmental

Health division. Most important to him, he's closer to his wife of two years, Dr. Caroline Ridley, whom he married in October of 2009. Ridley moved to D.C. after she was awarded a fellowship to work as a scientist for the EPA.

For Bayer, Wong will be doing a lot of what he was already doing as an extension specialist at Riverside — meeting with superintendents and growers and discussing what's best for their turf and crops.

"(Bayer) would like me to focus on providing support for the industry," Wong says. "From D.C. to Boston to Chicago. Where disease pressure on cool season is the

*Continued from page 21*

But Landschoot says the PSU turfgrass program is still stressed. It's looking at efficiencies. Additionally, when someone retires or leaves, those positions aren't being replaced.

"All public institutions are stressed," Landschoot says. "I'm thankful of industry support. All turfgrass students who graduated last year got jobs, so I think students will still come into the program. We need to keep our relationships in the industry strong so we can help students get jobs."

## Follow the money

The result of states' funding reductions is putting more pressure on manufacturers and individual golf facilities (owners, superintendents, etc.) to support turfgrass research financially. The gradual erosion of support from states is shifting responsibility to researchers, who have to find support from other sources.

"It's not easy," Clarke says, adding that he's relying more on local associations such as the New Jersey Turfgrass Foundation, the Tri-State Turf Research Foundation and the New Jersey GCSA, and less on national associations such as the GCSAA and USGA.

The PSU research facility, which has a \$100,000 mainte-



Frank Wong, Ph.D., left UC Riverside earlier this year in order to be closer to his wife of two years, Caroline Ridley, Ph.D. Wong is now a technical service specialist for Bayer Environmental Health.

highest — lot of brown patch, lot of dollar spot. It all comes down to enhancing customer service and support. Just talking to sales guys, supers, letting them know the best fit for the Bayer product line.”

If Wong has any regrets, it's that he left behind an area that he feels lacks the support it needs.

UC Riverside had halted operations of its turf diagnostics lab as a result of, among other things, insufficient funding.

“I don't want to make it seem like I was running away from a problem at the university, but, man... when your primary job is to do science and education, and you find yourself 90 percent of the time worrying about budgets, manpower issues, and how to

make sure you have enough paper towels in the lab? It really distracts away from the stuff you want to do,” Wong says.

And then there's the lovely Dr. Ridley. Once this job at Bayer became available, Wong hit the door pretty quickly. But that's what happens when personal lives are involved.

It's obvious that Dr. Wong is a man in love — with a new job, a new city, and most of all with being reunited with his wife. It's almost like the couple gets a second honeymoon.

But how will things go when the two are once again under the same roof?

“Man, I'm still just trying to figure out why she married me in the first place,” Wong laughs.

Details, Frank. You got the girl.

nance budget in addition to salaries, is funded by an endowment from the sale of the Penncross varieties of turfgrass in addition to the royalties from Tee-2-Green sales of PSU varieties. Additional funding comes from Penn State turfgrass council, conferences and industry golf tournaments. There's also grant funding from chemical, seed and fertilizer companies to test products.

“We'd be in a lot of trouble if we depended solely on state funds,” Landschoot says. “You have to fund your research and beat the bushes for money. I'm not turning down anything right now.”

The good news is the economy is starting to turn around, and companies aren't in so much of a holding pattern or downsizing, Landschoot says. Companies want to explore new products.

In Wong's case, other sources of funding were more difficult to come by.

“The golf industry, as a whole, isn't doing well, so how am I supposed to squeeze superintendents for more money when their budgets are being cut? And the chemical companies are fantastic. Without them, my program wouldn't have started. But there's only so much they can contribute, and they're contributing a lot. We need more support from others in the industry.” ■

*Walsh is a contributing editor for Golfdom.*

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*Phillip J. White, Crofton Country Club, Crofton, MD*

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# COLLEGE

## MEMORIES

**TURF SCHOOL  
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### **RYAN BALDWIN, CGCS**

**COURSE:** Highland Golf & Country Club, Indianapolis

**SCHOOL:** Purdue University **DEGREE, YEAR:** B.S., Agronomy  
with emphasis in Turf Science, 1996

Ryan Baldwin didn't have much of a choice when it came to colleges, but he's glad it worked out that way.

"My mother is an extension agent with Purdue," Baldwin says. "I was destined to attend Purdue from day one."

Baldwin arrived at Purdue planning on majoring in biology, but that quickly changed. With a large student body and so many majoring in biology, he felt like a number more than a student. So he chose to switch over to agronomy.

"There were benefits going into agronomy — there was a lot of contact with fellow students and faculty," Baldwin says. "The relationships I was able to build at such a large college, but small field, was invaluable. It may have been even more important to me than the agronomy."

Because of his close proximity to the school, and his passion for it, Baldwin has remained heavily involved with Purdue. He says there is a connection between everyone in the "Purdue family," even with alumni who attended the university in different decades.

"I remember the first time I met Clark Throssell — he was my adviser — I called him 'Dr. Throssell,'" Baldwin recalls. "He stopped me and said, 'No, I'm Clark.' That's just an example of how down-to-earth everyone was there." ■

## GOLFDOM READERS REFLECT ON A FEW OF THE GREAT TURF PROGRAMS IN THE NATION.

BY SETH JONES AND BETH GERACI

**All superintendents are passionate about growing grass. And most are just as passionate about their turf schools. ►**

Whether it's wearing team colors to the GCSAA Golf Tournament or chiding a rival school alumnus about the necessity of a "The" in his school's name, superintendents are bragging about their turf schools nearly every day.

► With a new college year underway, *Golfdom* asked turf school alumni why their alma maters are so dear to them. Here's what they said.



## JOSH LEWIS, ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT

**COURSE:** Pasatiempo Golf Club, Santa Cruz, Calif. **SCHOOL:** Oregon State University **DEGREE, YEAR:** B.S., Horticulture with Turfgrass Management option, 2010

“One thing about being a small program is, it’s very tight-knit,” says proud Beaver Josh Lewis, who says he keeps in touch with his classmates as well as other Oregon State alumni. “Whether it’s right or not, with us being so small, it gives us

a feeling of ‘us against the world.’”

Lewis attended Oregon State when then-director Tom Cook, Ph.D., retired and current director Rob Golembiewski, Ph.D., took over. Lewis says that both professors encouraged his development as a turf manager.

One of Lewis’ favorite classes was what he called “a case study on steroids.” The class was divided into four different groups, and each group was assigned a part of a golf course. Their assignment was to get their particular piece of course up to U.S. Open conditions in 10 weeks.

“(Golembiewski) turned us loose. We had to come up with our own fertilizer plan and then push it,” Lewis re-



calls. “If we killed it, we killed it. It was all up to us.”

So how did Lewis’ green turn out?

“We set the green speed record,” he laughs. ■

## KRIS “KD” DAVIS, SUPERINTENDENT

**COURSE:** Southern Hills Country Club, Tulsa, Okla. **SCHOOL:** The Ohio State University **DEGREE, YEAR:** B.S., Turfgrass Science, minor in Plant Pathology, 1999

At The Ohio State University, “football is the religion; basketball plays a close second.” So says Southern Hills Country Club superintendent KD Davis, who somehow managed to carve a path in turfgrass among the Ohio State sports hoopla.

When Davis attended OSU, it was the nation’s largest university. He knew if he was to control his future, he had to be an aggressive student. “Whether it was getting the right classes or fighting to get time with advisers and teachers, you were on your own, so to speak,” Davis explains.

But he wasn’t a bookworm, and when he recalls

his time as a Buckeye, Davis can’t help but smile.

“Whether it was the wealth of knowledge that was all around me to be soaked up or a few beers, it was definitely a great time in my life,” says Davis, who keeps in close contact with his college friends. Although he first lived on campus, he “got out of the dorms as fast as possible and never lived more than a 2-minute walk from campus. That is definitely where the fun was.”

“Dr. D.” Karl Danneberger and Dr. Michael Boehm influenced Davis most in class. The real life scenarios Danneberger presented taught him to become well informed before jumping to conclusions, while Boehm, a military veteran, taught him discipline.

Davis, 36, wanted to be a superintendent ever since he was 13, when he mowed yards just to pay for his membership at a local course. When Davis was 15, the course’s superintendent observed Davis was at the club more often than some of his crew. So he hired Davis part-time and the youngster played golf every day when his shift was over. That winter, he began exploring turf schools.

Davis’ curiosity and tenacity set the tone for his college and professional careers. Driven and disciplined, he continues to network with other OSU alums, which has propelled his success all the more.

Today, he brings his dog to the office, works outdoors and is living his dream. “The cons are the summer hours,” he says. “The pros are everything else.” ■

**The Ohio State grad KD Davis (left) and three of his friends spell out “Ohio”.**



*Continued on page 26*





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*Continued from page 25*

### MARK KUHN, CGCS

**COURSE:** Baltusrol Golf Club, Springfield, N.J. **SCHOOL:** Penn State University  
**DEGREE, YEAR:** B.S., Agricultural Science, 1977

Mark Kuhns still remembers the exact name of the class — Ag Engineering 13. The course focused on irrigation and design.

"It's phenomenal how much that course has helped me today," Kuhns says. "We had to design the pump, decide on pipe sizes, everything. And it had to be efficient — the most minimal pump for the site."

Kuhns says that the Penn State program has gone more turf-centric since he left. When he was at school, he had to take more agricultural courses, which, in hindsight, also paid off.

"Agricultural engineering, horticulture, agricultural economics, accounting — those courses prepared me to look at the big picture," Kuhns says. "One class that stood out was my speech course. I had a great instructor who brought us out of our shells. He taught us how to walk and how to talk. Major Brigham — shows you how good the class was if I still remember his name."

To this day Kuhns is one of the biggest supporters of Penn State's turf program, often speaking at PSU functions and also recruiting future superintendents from the program.

"I thank Penn State

every day of my life," Kuhns says. "That's why I'm crazy (about the university.) It is a land grant institution and it did exactly what it was designed to do — it took a country boy and it turned him around." ■



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### **TROY LOONEY, SUPERINTENDENT**

**COURSE:** The Emerald Golf Course, Saint Johns, Mich. **SCHOOL:** Michigan State University **DEGREE, YEAR:** B.S., Crop and Soil Sciences and turfgrass curriculum, 2007

Troy Looney, 29, wanted to pursue a career in marketing or psychology. But while a junior at Michigan State, he changed course, turning to a degree in turf.

He's glad he did, despite his dislike of ball marks.

"The MSU community as a whole is one I respect and admire and have incredible memories of," he says. "I was able to meet a wide variety of professors and students, all of whom had incredible knowledge and perspectives."

So many people at MSU left a lasting impression on Looney, he can't name them all. But two professors have stayed at the fore of his mind — James Crum, Ph.D. and John "Trey" Rogers, Ph.D., both of whom took time outside of class to answer Looney's questions.

"I found their classes to be intriguing and beneficial," Looney says. "More importantly, their guidance greatly improved my professionalism and enhanced my knowledge on how to succeed in the turfgrass profession."

Looney once showed his school spirit by helping build an MSU Homecoming float. It must have turned out pretty good, because the proud Spartan saw it on the front page of the newspaper the next day — a memory he'll always cherish. ■



### **TY MCCLELLAN, USGA AGRONOMIST, MID-CONTINENT**

**REGION** **SCHOOL:** Kansas State University **DEGREE, YEAR:** B.S., Golf Course Management, College of Agriculture, 2001

When Ty McClellan arrived at Kansas State's campus in Manhattan, Kan., he was an architecture major. That lasted about a week.

"It was a combination of finding out that architecture wasn't what I wanted to do, and that K-State was coming out with this new golf management program in the fall of '98," McClellan remembers. "I had a farming background, so I decided to give it a try."

McClellan is happy he rolled the dice on the new program. He says it's one of the most innovative programs in the nation.

"You get your golf course work, then three minors: hotel and restaurant management, communications and business administration," McClellan explains. "The degree is designed to give you a well-rounded education as a superintendent, but also the credentials to go on to be a general manager, if you choose to do so."

After graduating from K-State, he went on to the University of Nebraska where he earned an M.S. in horticulture specializing in turfgrass. He later became GCSAA's first chapter liaison representative before joining the USGA. The well-rounded program at K-State was a key to his success, he says.

"Dr. Jack Fry taught one of my favorite classes — Golf Course Operations," McClellan recalls. "It was an all-inclusive look at golf course management. It blended financial decisions and turf science. It really helped us wrap our minds around the whole business of a golf course." ■



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# Clark Talks Turf

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## → A Dim Future for University Turfgrass Research

BY CLARK THROSSELL, PH.D.

**T**hese are tough times for the golf industry, including university turfgrass research programs. The reason is a lack of funding. It certainly isn't a lack of problems to solve. Funding for turfgrass research is hard to find today and will be harder to find tomorrow. The end result will be less turfgrass research, fewer university turfgrass scientists and less expertise to support superintendents.

Let's start with a review of the funding realities at a public university. States budget money to universities. That money goes to salaries and benefits of professors, administrators and some staff members and basic operations. Professors must secure funding for their research programs, including salaries and benefits for technicians to maintain turf plots or run a lab, salaries, benefits and tuition for graduate students to conduct research, turfgrass plot maintenance, equipment, travel and all the other things that are necessary for a successful research program.

These expenses add up quickly and it is a challenge to secure funding year after year to keep a productive research program running. And in case you are wondering, all professors, not just turfgrass scientists, are required to generate funding to support their research program.

Add to this the dismal financial condition of many states. Additional budget cuts at already stressed public

universities are likely. This will impact all university activities including turfgrass research programs. In short, public funding for turfgrass research is not going to happen.

Another reality of university life for all professors, including turfgrass scientists, is they are expected to secure funding from sources outside the state budget. If funding can't be secured for turfgrass research, turfgrass scientists

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will look to other research areas to apply their knowledge and compete for funding with a net result of a loss of expertise to superintendents.

Funding for turfgrass research is drying up. Traditionally, turf foundations provided generous support to universities for turfgrass research. In many cases, this is not true today. In the last 10 years or so, turf foundations have struggled financially and as a result the amount donated for university turfgrass research has stayed flat or declined.

The USGA has been the driving force funding turfgrass research. Since

the late 1980s, the USGA has provided funding for a wide array of research projects that have yielded numerous advancements that are used daily on golf courses across the country and around the world. Unfortunately, the USGA has had to reduce research funding in the last few years. GCSAA and NTEP also fund turfgrass research and both organizations have had to reduce their research funding over the last few years. Given the tough economic times and stagnation in the golf industry, it is unlikely that increases in research funding will be forthcoming from golf or turf organizations.

University turfgrass research funding is not likely to grow in the future unless the golf course superintendents step up and change the current direction of research funding. Superintendents enjoy a rich legacy of creating and supporting university turf programs. It is time to reinvigorate this legacy.

What can you do? Be seen and be heard. Attend the field day and turf conference sponsored by your state turf program every year and take along a couple of your staff members. Tell the department head and dean how important the turfgrass research program is to your golf course and your career success. Talk to your colleagues in the Carolinas and start your version of Rounds for Research. Personally donate to the turfgrass program in your state. Most of all, talk to your fellow superintendents to raise awareness of the research funding crunch and take action to increase funding for turfgrass research. ■

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Clark Throssell, Ph.D., contributing editor for *Golfdom* and a turfgrass scientist, can be reached at [clarkthrossell@bresnan.net](mailto:clarkthrossell@bresnan.net).





## Dean for a Day

**N**obody made me Dean of Turf School. But if they did, here's my roster of must-have courses for the curriculum.

**Introduction To Golf, 101** – Circa 1450 To November 27, 2009 B.F.H. (*Before Fire Hydrant*) – This comprehensive review will take us from the earliest days of Mary Queen of Scots whapping it around the first golf courses, to the Old Course's evolution under the watchful eye of the game's first superintendent and architect: Old Tom Morris. We'll zoom through the Jones, Hogan, Palmer and Nicklaus eras and finish with Tiger Woods' fateful left turn out of his driveway and into a fire hydrant.

**Golf In The Post-Tiger Era, 201** – November 28, 2009 A.F.H. (*After Fire Hydrant*) to the Present – Featuring police images, witness accounts and a full rundown of the Taiwanese reenactment videos, this course will commence with a detailed reconstruction of the minor car accident that commenced the modern era of the game. The class will feature a thorough review of each of Tiger's major swing changes and engage in state-of-the-game discussions focusing on ways superintendents can improve the future by reducing costs, improving efficiency and maintaining their unique role as keepers of the green.

**Introduction to Golfers, 101** – *Understanding Their Neurotic Tendencies, Strange Peccadillos and General Lack of Interest in Your Opinion* – For all of the claims that golfers are the most humble of recreational and professional athletes, this course will quickly set you straight. Guest speakers will share stories of how to deal with those who, seem-

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BY GEOFF SHACKELFORD



ingly successful in life, can allow the pettiest misfortune to ruin their round and demand that they could do your job better than you. The course will be topped off by a celebratory beating of a piñata dressed in shorts, ankle socks and a logoed golf shirt.

**Golfers As Your Boss, 201** – *Dealing With Boards, Committee Members, General Managers, PGA Professionals and Green Chairmen* – This dynamic class will prepare the student by teaching responses designed to help expedite painful conversations ("That's not the worst idea I've ever heard"), all with the goal of never putting you, the superintendent, on the record saying something that could later lead to termination. Clips from *Caddyshack* will be screened to prevent morbid depression from setting in.

**Introduction To Golf Architecture, 101** – Since an alarming number of remodels, redesigns and overall changes to courses lead to hair loss, back pain, hemorrhoidal swelling and even job loss, this introductory class is designed to teach the basics of golf architecture while instilling just enough knowledge to give you a better architectural sense than many practicing designers. The various schools of design (strategic, penal, confusing) will be discussed. In the interest

of future job security, students will be encouraged to flesh out any of their desires to play architect later in life. Paper and pencil will be provided.

**Player Architects And Other Low Points in Golf Design History, 201** – From the days when Old Tom Morris fended off charges from Allan Robertson that he redesigned the Old Course to fit his game, to modern day accusations of Jack Nicklaus designing any number of courses for his high fade, we'll study the many oddball moments in the history of design to better prepare students for their inevitable first meetings with visiting architects. We'll discuss what was going through Nicklaus's mind during his chocolate drop phase, the deeper meaning of Desmond Muirhead's mermaid island green, and the fire hazard risks associated with any Pete Dye course built during his railroad tie phase. Students should be prepared to memorize terminology that will make them sound intelligent and well informed when talking to architects and golfers alike. Because in this world, it's better to sound intelligent than to be intelligent.

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*Reach Shack, Golfdom's contributing editor, at [geoffshack@me.com](mailto:geoffshack@me.com). Check out his blog – now a part of the Golf Digest family – at [www.geoffshackelford.com](http://www.geoffshackelford.com).*