

Three Anoka Technical College Students Receive Harold Stodola Scholarships

(See Photos on Cover)

Three Anoka Technical College turfgrass students have been selected to receive Harold Stodola Memorial Scholarships, according to Rick Fredericksen, chairman of the MGCSA's Scholarship Committee.

They are Harvey Klitzke, 46, Eden Prairie; Chris A. Leach, 26, Glyndon, and Michael Nelson, 23, St. Paul.

Scholarship grants are awarded annually by the MGCSA to turfgrass students who have displayed high scholastic achievement and a strong desire to become golf course superintendents.

"These scholarships represent our financial support of turfgrass students in becoming superintendents," said Fredericksen, head superintendent at Woodhill Country Club. "The scholarship program is dedicated to the memory of Harold Stodola, who committed his career to the leadership and advancement of golf course management."

Klitzke, a 1962 graduate of Brownton High School, was graduated from Concordia College in Moorhead with a business degree in 1966. In 1989 he worked on the golf course maintenance staff at Interlachen Country Club in Edina and this year is an intern at Hazeltine National Golf Club in Chaska. He expects to be graduated from Anoka next spring.

"I enjoy the game of golf," said Klitzke in his application form. "Being outdoors is invigorating, and growing turf, trees, shrubs and flowers gives me tremendous satisfaction. Maintaining a golf course is both an art and a science."

Looking ahead, he said that "with my business degree and years of experience in business, coupled with a two-year turf degree and adequate hands-on experience, I can become an effective superintendent. I have the ability, desire and personality to be a credit to the MGCSA."

"In order to achieve my goals requires financial sacrifice for several years. The scholarship will certainly ease the burden," Klitzke said. His daughter has one year remaining at Grinnell College.

Leach, a 1982 graduate of Glyndon-Felton High School, was graduated in 1987 from Mayville State University in Mayville, N.D., where he was an honor student, served on the Student Council, earned letters for three years in both football and baseball and was honored for excellence in academics and athletics.

He worked in the pro shop at Ponderosa Golf Club in Glyndon in 1989 and on the golf course at Fargo Country Club this past summer. He expects to graduate from Anoka next spring.

"I had the opportunity to work on a golf course for two summers while in high school and simply fell in love with," Leach said. "I enjoy all phases of golf course management from mowing to construction."

"With the ever-changing technologies of today's golf courses, I believe it is very important to receive a well-rounded education and to continue to build on that education," he said.

Leach hopes to gain expertise in turf management, personnel management, budgeting, pest diagnosis, salesmanship and, as he put it, "most importantly in character and leadership qualities."

"Since joining the MGCSA earlier this year, I have been fortunate to witness the professionalism that the association represents," he said. "I truly believe that I have the professional qualities necessary to represent the MGCSA proudly."

Nelson, who was graduated from St. Paul Central High School in 1986, then worked with the Dayton Hudson Corp, also expects to be graduated from Anoka in 1991. Since 1987 he has been involved in golf course maintenance at Midland Hills Country Club in St. Paul.

"My dad encouraged me to play golf at an early age," said Nelson, who was all-conference in golf, won a rookie award in hockey and had perfect attendance for four years at St. Paul Central.

"As my interest grew in golf, so did my interest in the different aspects that are closely related, like turf management," he said. "While at Anoka, I expect to become familiar with the many different

areas associated with the job. A lot can be said for experience, but I also feel it is necessary to have the firm foundation of a good education."

"I always will be looking to better myself and the profession by doing my best in any situation," he said. "Environmental concerns are a large part of the profession. I see even more concern in the future."

About Harold Stodola

Harold Stodola began his career working at Oak Ridge Country Club in Hopkins from 1922 until 1926.

He then assumed the responsibilities as "greenskeeper" at Keller Golf Club in St. Paul until 1942, when he moved to Firestone Country Club in Akron, Ohio.

At Firestone, Stodola not only was charged with the maintenance of the golf course but with the Victory Gardens as well.

He retired in 1977 as superintendent at Mendakota Country Club in St. Paul. That year he received the Distinguished Service Award from the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America [GCSAA].

Said Rick Fredericksen, chairman of the MGCSAA's Scholarship Committee: "The GCSAA's Distinguished Service Award is only presented to those who have demonstrated dedication and outstanding service to the GCSAA and the profession."

"Harold Stodola committed his entire life to the propagation and enhancement of the finest quality turf on earth so the masses could enjoy this game called golf in the most relaxing atmosphere on the most beautiful and tranquil spots in the world," said Fredericksen.