

## J.M. Vargas, Jr., Receives Distinguished Service Award from GCSAA

J.M. Vargas, Jr., Ph.D., who received his Ph.D. in plant pathology at the University of Minnesota, was one of three individuals who received a Distinguished Service Award from the board of directors of the Golf Course Superintendents of America. Others receiving the award were Gerald L. Faubel, CGCS, Michigan, and Coleman Y. Ward, Ph.D., Virginia.

Vargas, a professor of botany and plant pathology at Michigan State University for 25 years, has helped enhance the superintendent's profession through his involvement in teaching, research and extension.

Vargas attended the University of Rhode Island and earned a bachelor's degree in agronomy. His initial goal was to become a golf course superintendent, but soon decided to focus his talents toward the academic side of the industry.

"That is one reason this award is so special to me — because I started out wanting to be a golf course superintendent," Vargas says. "It really means a lot, because I work with superintendents and my best friends are golf course superintendents."

Vargas received a master's degree in plant pathology from Oklahoma State University and then his Ph.D. in plant pathology from the University of Minnesota. His research accomplishments have been extraordinary, resulting in such achievements as developing the first mathematical prediction model for turfgrass disease and discovering the first bacterial disease in turf on Toronto creeping bentgrass.

Vargas has shared his knowledge through more than 1,000 presentations at conferences throughout the world including this past year's MTGF Turf Conference and Show in Minneapolis. He has also published more than 200 articles on turfgrass diseases and related subjects, as well as a book, *Management of Turfgrass Diseases*.

Currently, Vargas is working with the Michigan and Border Cities GCSA on a GCSAA Chapter Cooperative Research Program.

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## MGCSA APRIL MEETING

The Lafayette Club  
Tues., April 29, 1997

#### AGENDA

4:00 p.m. . . . . Social Hour  
5:00 p.m. . . . . Bob Vavrek, USGA  
6:00 p.m. . . . . Dinner

**NO GOLF AT THIS MEETING**