

MGCSA Presents 1999-2000 Stodola Scholarships to Three Students

By RALPH TURPINEN

Three students — one at the University of Minnesota, another at Iowa State and the third at Penn State — have been granted \$1,000 Harold Stodola Scholarships for the 1999-2000 school year.

They are:

Andrew Kjos, a Penn State student who has served as an intern at Augusta National in Georgia;

Brandon M. Schindele, University of Minnesota, who has been employed at Edina Country Club;

Chad M. Wilson, an Iowa State student who also served as an intern at Augusta National and has received a scholarship for the past two years.

“Once again our scholarship committee had an outstanding group of applicants as we pared them down to the final three,” said John Queensland, Cedar River CC, chairman. “We expect them to continue to do as well at college as they have in the past.”

Andrew Kjos is a 1988 graduate of Benson High School and a 1995 graduate of Concordia College in Moorhead where he received a B.A. degree in communication. He began his studies last fall at Penn State where he serves as secretary of the university’s Turf Club.

In high school he played football and tennis, worked part-time at a radio station, once participated in a four-week educational travel seminar to Europe and was a member of the Homecoming Committee at Concordia. He lettered five times in tennis at Benson and also was a four-year tennis letterwinner at Concordia. He sings in a church choir, coaches hockey and teaches tennis to youngsters.

“While growing up in a small town, I mowed lawns for neighbors and parks but was fascinated with the local golf course I played at,” said Kjos. “During college I got a job at the Benson Golf Course, but at that time I didn’t intend to make a career of it.

“After getting my communications degree at Concordia, I spent a year working various jobs trying to find a career to pursue, but after a lot of soul searching, I found working on a golf course is what I really enjoy doing.”

“College has taught me how to learn and how to think on my own,” he said. “It has and is giving me the ability to solve problems. I may not be able to tell you what the adaxial leaf side of Bahiagrass looks like, but if for some reason I needed to know it, I would be able to find it. My education

is my ticket into the game. Without it my goal is unattainable.”

Said George W. Hamilton, his advisor at Penn State, “Andy is an outstanding individual and student. He is very committed to the golf course industry, he’s very mature and displays true professionalism.”

Andy’s work experience also includes serving as a crew member at Minneapolis Golf Club and The Quarry at La Quinta, Calif. He also was an intern at Minisceongo Golf Club in New York.

Brandon M. Schindele, who currently is pursuing a four-year degree in Environmental Horticulture with a turf emphasis, was graduated from Stillwater High School in 1995, attended the University of North Dakota for two years, then transferred to the U of M.

In high school he was graduated with a 3.4 GPA and was on either the A or B honor roll during his three high school years. At UND he was on the Dean’s List for two semesters and was selected as one of the 10 finalists in the Toro Championship Tournament Training Program.

He also was a varsity soccer player at Stillwater captain of North Dakota’s soccer team and a volunteer soccer coach for two summers. Last March he was elected vice-president of the University of Minnesota’s student chapter of GCSAA.

“My initial interest in golf was stimulated by my father who would spend time in our back yard when I was about five years old, just pitching balls into a 5-gallon bucket, then going to play at local courses as I got older.

“My interest in this field began as I began working at a local golf course during the summer, and each year I became more interested as the superintendent encouraged me to go into golf course maintenance when I really didn’t know what I wanted to do in college after my freshman year. He would teach me about the irrigation system and

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Scholars—

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about diseases and other areas of the field, almost like I was an intern. Instead of just going to work, I learned other things and saw more of what a superintendent's job consisted of."

"I am majoring in turf management because I feel this will be only the beginning to my education in this field," Brandon said. "I believe my role in this profession will not be simply limited to the caretaking of the golf course and grounds, but also as an environmental steward, educator, a public relations liaison and a leader for this profession!"

His work experience includes service at Edina Country Club where Dave Simeon said that "Brandon is the best student I have been associated with. He is going to go a long way in the golf course management profession."

At the U of M, Professor Don White described Brandon as "hard-working, honest, conscientious and active in student affairs" and noted that he currently is vice-president of the GCSAA student chapter and contributes to the community as a Big Brother and volunteer coach on a traveling soccer team.

Chad M. Wilson, who also received a Stodola Scholarship last year, was graduated from St. Charles High School in 1996 and expects to graduate from Iowa State University in the fall of 2000 with a horticulture degree/ and turfgrass management emphasis.

In high school he was an honor student, received the DAR Good Citizen Award, was listed in Who's Who Among America's Students, lettered for three years in golf and was captain twice. He also has been active in church work.

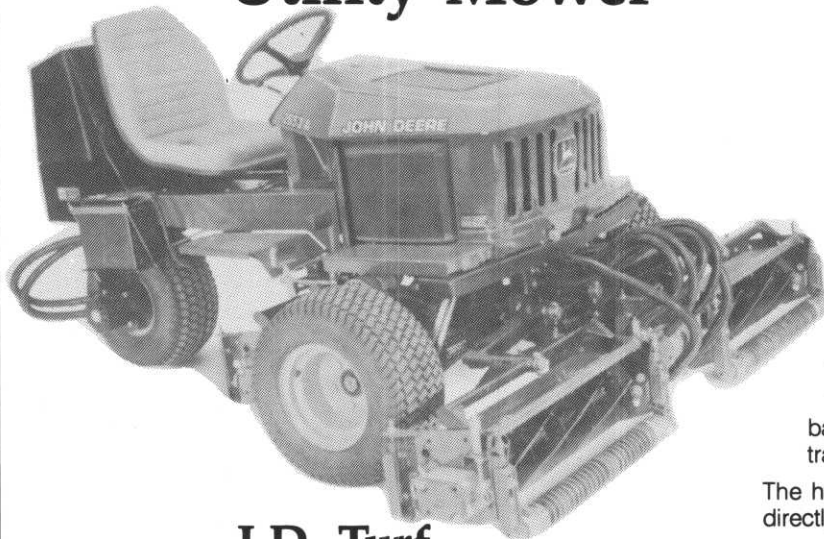
At Iowa State he has served as treasurer and vice-president of the school's Turfgrass Club, has an overall GPA of 3.66 and is a member of the student advisory committee of the GCSAA. He also received a first place award in the student essay contest.

Said Professor David D. Minner: "Chad also completed very successful student internships at Pinehurst No. 8 in 1997 and the Country Club of the Rockies in Colorado in 1998. He will be one of tomorrow's leading professionals because he has clearly defined goals and already has made substantial progress towards them, both academically and professionally."

Chad began working on the maintenance staff of St. Charles golf course in 1995 and felt that line of work could help keep him close to the game he liked considerably. Chad also was described as a "team player who operates with a great sense of urgency, has a good understanding of the need for details and a do-whatever-it-takes attitude" while serving this past year at Augusta National.

Introduced to golf by his mother, Chad said "I fell in love with the game and while working on our local golf course I knew that becoming a superintendent was what I wanted to be. Eventually I will become a Certified Golf Course Superintendent."

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