

Garske Legacy Awards Funds Scholarships For 10th Consecutive Year

Named after the founder of Par Aide Products Co., the Joseph S. Garske Legacy Awards now are in their tenth year of funding two scholarship grants to children and grandchildren of MGCSA Members.

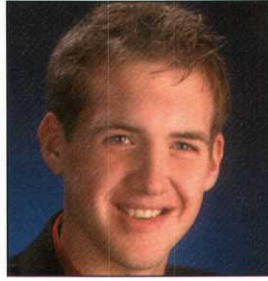
The Par Aide firm, located in Lino Lakes, contributes \$3,000 annually, divided into two grants. This year **Nicole Lohman**, daughter of Guy Lohman, received her second grant of \$1,500. Nicole will be a sophomore student majoring in Archaeology at the University of Wis.-La Crosse.

Awarded his first \$1,500 grant for the 2006-07 school year was



Nicole Lohman

Andrew Evenson, son of Brian Evenson, superintendent at Birchwood Golf Course. Andrew attended Pelican Rapids High School. He will be a sophomore student majoring in Accounting, Economics and Pre-Law at Gustavus Adolphus College. Andrew played on the Gustavus golf team and participated in the Gustavus



Andrew Evenson

Chapel Choir.

The late Mr. Garske, who died at the age of 76 in 1982, started Par Aide in 1954 with plans to make a "good" ball washer. A foundry man and avid golfer, he knew little about the golf business, tried to sell his ideas for design and tooling to two accessory companies, was turned down by both and so began Par



Madalyn Ellingson

Aide Products Company.

The Garske scholarships were started in 1996 by Joseph Garske's son, Steve, who noted that his father "was an orphan with only a sixth grade education and was self-conscious about his lack of formal schooling, but he always wanted to help young people with their education."



Kelsey Phenow

"I am pleased to have our company provide these scholarships since for many superintendents, providing a college education for their children requires true sacrifice," Garske said.

"As a long-time member of the Scholarship Committee some years ago, it

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Scholarship Winners—

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always bothered me that we had lots of scholarships available for turf students but nothing for the legacy of current members," Garske said. (Heeding the comments of a long-time Minnesota Superintendent that our committee was working to put him out of a job.) While Steve thought this was a bit of paranoid thinking, it did make him realize that supply and demand works in this industry as well, and if nothing else, an oversupply of eager new superintendents could definitely undermine salaries. However, it was the following that motivated Par Aide to initiate a legacy scholarship program: 1) Many Superintendents are underpaid, in my opinion, and they truly work a labor of love. Sending a child to college is likely a real hardship. These same Superintendents who now have college age children were the very ones who had been so responsible for supporting our company through all the years and had helped us attain our success. We wanted to thank them. 2) Our founder, Joe Garske,

did not have any formal education and was always conscious of that fact. He had quietly supported at least one young man in gaining a degree. 3) There were lots of turf student scholarships but few if any Legacy awards.

So it seemed obvious to Steve to initiate a legacy program and it was discussed at numerous scholarship meetings. The problem was how to administer such a program. Suppliers to our industry did not want to be in a position of judging one potential recipient/customer against another, and Superintendent members were not comfortable with reviewing personal information and making judgments on each other either. The idea laid dormant until we discovered the Citizens' Scholarship Foundation of America, now called Scholarship America, an organization that does nothing but review and award scholarships. It's completely impartial and considers all information confidential. The MGCSA quickly agreed to accept the cost of administration and the Joseph S. Garske Legacy was born. The idea was to provide two two-year scholarships to deserving legacy of current MGCSA Members. This program is

thought to have been successful by all and has been in existence since 1996, helping numerous sons and daughters of Superintendents pursue their college education.

Par Aide has continued to prosper and as an expansion of its Minnesota program it now also offers a similar program nationwide through the GCSAA.

Winner of this year's MGCSA Legacy Awards are Madalyn Ellingson and Kelsey Phenow. Madalyn is the daughter of Brooks Ellingson. Brooks is the Superintendent at Albion Ridges Golf Club. Madalyn attended Buffalo High School and was a winner of the 2006 Thursday Musical Scholarship Competition in the college winds division. She will be a freshman at the University of Minnesota and is majoring in Flute performance.

Kelsey Phenow, daughter of Donald Phenow. Don is with the Minneapolis Park Board. Kelsey attended Coon Rapids High School, was involved in the National Honor Society, played volleyball and basketball and will be a freshman at the University of Wisconsin-Stout. She is majoring in Business.

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