

# 2007 Joseph S. Garske Legacy Scholarships Awarded for 11th Consecutive Year

By Scott Hines, CGCS  
Windsong Farm Golf Club

The Legacy Award, named after the founder of Par Aide Products Company, Joseph S. Garske, located in Lino Lakes, Minnesota is committed to further the education of children and grandchildren of MGCSA members through financial contributions. This is the 11th consecutive year for these awards.

This year we are pleased to award a \$1,500 Garske Legacy Award to Pamela Erickson, \$1,000 MGCSA Legacy Scholarships to Laura Fischer and Kelsey Phenow, and a \$1,500 Garske Legacy Award renewal to Andrew Evenson.

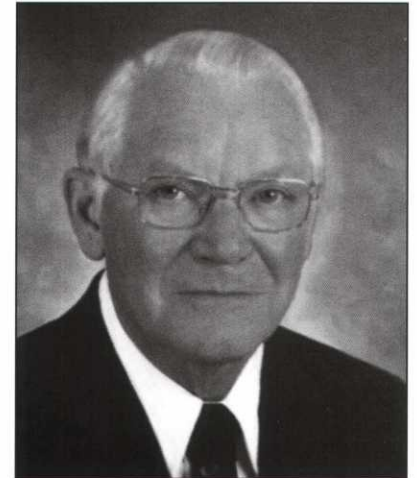
The late Mr. Garske, who died at the age of 76 in 1982, started Par Aide in 1954 with plans to make a "good" ball washer. A foundry man and avid golfer, he knew little about the golf business, tried to sell his ideas for design and tooling to two accessory companies, was turned down by both and so began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

The Legacy Scholarship was started by Steve Garske, son of the Joseph Garske, in 1996.

"I am pleased to have our company provide these scholarships since for many superintendents, providing a college education

for their children requires true sacrifice. I am fortunate to have the opportunity and ability to help," Garske said.

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



Joseph S. Garske

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

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**Pamela Erickson**  
*Garske Legacy Award Recipient*

## Scholarships—

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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



**Andrew Evenson**  
*Garske Legacy Award Recipient*

nationwide through the GCSAA.

Winners of this year's Legacy Scholarships are:

**Pamela C. Erickson**, daughter of David and Diana Erickson. David is the Superintendent of Eagle Valley Golf Course in Woodbury. Pamela is a graduate of Stillwater Area High School and now attends Iowa State University where she is majoring in Civil Engineering.

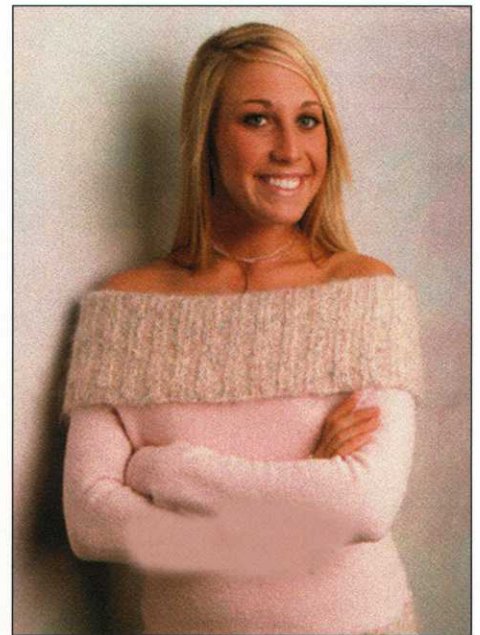


**Laura Fischer**  
*MGCSA Legacy Scholarship Recipient*

**Laura M. Fischer**, daughter of Thomas and Deborah Fischer. Thomas is the Superintendent at Edinburgh USA in Brooklyn Park. Laura is a graduate of Osseo Senior High School and is now enrolled at the Carlson School of Management with a major in Business.

**Kelsey L. Phenow**, daughter of Donald and Cheri Phenow. Donald is employed by the Minneapolis Park Board. Kelsey is a graduate of Coon Rapids High School. Kelsey attends the University of Wisconsin-Stout where she majors in Business/Retail. Kelsey also received a MGCSA Legacy Scholarship in 2006.

Receiving a Garske Legacy Award renewal is **Andrew J. Evenson**, son of Brian and Connie Evenson. Brian is the Superintendent at Birchwood Golf Course in Pelican Rapids. Andrew is



**Kelsey Phenow**  
*MGCSA Legacy Scholarship Recipient*

attending Gustavus Adolphus College where he is studying Accounting, Economics and Pre-Law.

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