

Joseph S. Garske Legacy Scholarships Awarded for 12th Consecutive Year

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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 12th consecutive year for these awards.

This year we are pleased to award \$1,000 Scholarships to Candice Grimm and Kelsey Phenow, a \$1,500 scholarship to Elle Clunis and a \$1,500 scholarship renewal to Pamela Erickson.

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. 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 pro-

gram 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.

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Legacy Scholarships-

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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.

Winners of 2008 Garske Legacy Scholarships are:

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

Elle Clunis, daughter of Kevin and Nancy Clunis. Kevin is the Superintendent at Tanners Brook Golf Course in Forest Lake, Minn. Elle is a graduate of Mahtomedi High School and is now enrolled at the University of Minnesota, her major is undecided.

Winners of 2008 MGCSA Legacy Scholarships are:

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 2007.

Candice Grimm, daughter of Todd and Laurie Grimm. Todd is employed by The Meadows Golf Course in Moorhead, Minn. Candice is a graduate of Moorhead High School. Candice will attend Hamline University where she will major in Art and Psychology.

2009 GCSAA

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Oct. 1, 2008

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