2014 Scholarship Announcement

This year the MGCSA is pleased to award two, \$1,000 MGCSA Legacy Scholarships, to AnneMarie A. Backstrom and Anne W. Frank, a \$1,500 Joseph S. Garske Legacy scholarship to Melina K. Lynn and a \$1,500 Garske scholarship renewal to Allison E. Hable.

The Minnesota Golf Course Superintendents' Association offers a Legacy Scholarship program designed to assist children and grandchildren of Class AA, A, SM, C, D, Associate and Affiliate members. The MGCSA provides scholarships to students attending college or vocational programs at any accredited post-secondary institution. The program is independently managed by Scholarship America, a national non-profit student aid service organization.

Winners of this year's MGCSA Legacy Scholarships are:

AnneMarie Backstrom, the daughter of Jeff Backstrom. Jeff is the superintendent at Cannon Golf Club. AnneMarie attended Bethlehem Academy in Faribault and was active in 4-H, volleyball, track and various leadership clubs. She is currently attending the College of St. Benedict where she is pursuing a degree in Environmental Studies.



"AnnMarie bleeds green, as in 4-h green. She has been very active in Goodhue County 4-h and served as a Minnesota State 4-h Ambassador in 2012. She travels all over the state and country participating or helping out at 4-h activities. She developed a passion for it at a very young age and created many friendships along the way. I can't be more proud of her achievements in school, church, 4-h, and volunteering. She even found time to work part-time on the grounds staff at Cannon Golf Club. She is very excited about receiving the MGCSA Legacy Scholarship...along with her parents. Thank You to the MGC-SA for the continued support of this scholarship!", her father Jeff said



Anne W. Frank, daughter of Bob and Tammy Frank. Frank, is an affiliate member who works for MTI. Anne graduated from New Richmond High School and occupied her time with interests in running, canoeing, cribbage track and 4-H. She is also attending St. Benedicts is majoring in Communication. "Tammy and I are very proud of Anne and all of her accomplishments. I also appreciate the scholarship opportunities that the MGCSA provides. Thank you." Bob



The Joseph S. Garske Legacy award, named after the founder of Par Aide Products Company, Joe Garske, is committed to further the education of children and grandchildren of MGCSA members through financial contributions. This is the 17th consecutive year for these awards. Par Aide is located in Lino Lakes, Minnesota and owned by Steve Garske, son of Joseph.

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 in his honor by Steve 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 premises that motivated Par Aide to initiate a legacy scholarship program:



1) Many Superintendents are under-

paid, 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 sponsorship concept lay 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 children 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.

Congratulations to the winners of the 2014 MGCSA and Joseph S. Garske Legacy Scholarships.

Winners of this year's Joseph S. Garske Scholarship are:

Melina Lynn, daughter of Tom and Sandy Proshek, is the recipient of the Joseph Garske Scholarship. Tom is the Superintendent at Brackett's Crossing Country Club. Melina is a graduate of Lakeville North High School and is currently attending the Milwaukee School of Engineering. She is specializing in Biomedical Engineering. When in town, Melina volunteers at Dakota Woodlands Women's Shelter and Fairview Southdale Hospital and was active in Best Buddies and soccer while attending high school.





"We are extremely proud of Melina and all of her accomplishments she concurred thus far early in her life both academically as well as athletically. Melina has matured into a great young lady and is a caring, un-selfish, hard worker, bright, along with a continuing willingness to learn and be adventurous. We couldn't be happier for her in what lies in the future for this special lady. She even mows and rolls much straighter than her step-dad." Tom said of his step-daughter.



Allison E. Hable, daughter of Jeff and Donna Hable is the recipient of the Joseph Garske Renewal Scholarship. Jeff is the superintendent at Phalen Golf Course in St. Paul. Allison is a graduate from the Coon Rapids High School where she played varsity volleyball and softball. She also enjoys playing tennis, rollerblading, crafts, hanging out with friends and family. "Both Allie and I are extremely excited and thankful for this great program and her being awarded the Joseph S. Garske Scholarship. This opportunity will help assist her in funding her College education. Allie will be attending University of Nebraska-Lincoln where she will major in Fashion Merchandising and Minor in Business." Said father Jeff.





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