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REBEL RUNNER

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PGA Merchandise Show Highlights 1

President's Corner 1

Internships 2

Aaron's Pro Tip 2

Tournaments 3

Fall Awards Spring Planning 3

New Simulator Room 3

2007 PGA Merchandise Show Highlights



UNLV PGA PGM Program at the 2007 PGA Show

The 2007 PGA Merchandise Show was anything but simply just another event this year as the world's top golf companies, merchandise companies, and golf professionals alike met at the Orange County Convention Center in Orlando, Florida. Among some of the finest golf gurus in the world were some of the finest PGM Students in the nation with the UNLV PGM Program as one of them.

The students of the UNLV PGA PGM Program went down to the show from January 25th– January 28th.

During their time in Orlando, the students met with golf professionals who offered outstanding internship positions at some of the top golf facilities in the nation. Students also got to try out the latest equipment and accessories in the golf business, including the new Nike and Callaway Drivers and much more. Many new merchandise lines were also hot on the market.

The PGA Merchandise Show itself is a grand event, featuring anything and everything related to golf. Being there for only three days is simply not enough time to see the entire show. One of the big features of the PGA Merchandise Show is the 80-yard indoor driving range, which features all the latest equipment, club-fitting technology and brand new golf balls!

The PGA Show is not the only main attraction for students, but the inaugural Disney PGM Invitational was also a fun-filled tournament where PGM Students from UNLV and other schools compete in a one day team event at the Magnolia Golf Club at Walt Disney Resort, home of the PGA Tour's Funai Classic. The addition of this event to the schedule and the exciting new internship opportunities make this year's PGA Show a major venue for PGM Students to attend.

-By Andrew Kam

UNLV PGA/PGM™ Program
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PGA Accredited Program

President's Corner (highlight social events)

Kyle Helms, President-

The Professional Golf Management Student Association is off to a great start in 2007. Between tournaments, social events, and other PGM activities and events alike, the students in our program will have many opportunities to grow in the golf industry together.

This semester, the student body will have their traditional softball game which is a rival between the classes. We also have many other social events lined up for the semester to help us grow together as a "family" of future PGA golf professionals. We look forward to furthering our program and our student body towards excellence.

PGM Students at the 2007 PGA Show in Orlando



UNLV PGM Scores on Internships at 2007 PGA Show



UNLV PGM at the Disney PGM Invitational

The students of the UNLV PGM Program did well to represent the program at the 2007 PGA Merchandise Show. In doing so, several new and past internship opportunities have arose, and thanks to our hardworking students and directors, the UNLV PGM Program is soaring to new

heights with a stellar list of great internship opportunities for current and future students.

PGMSA President, Kyle Helms, met with Michael Dickson from Congressional Country Club in Washington, D.C. Kyle will now be completing his 6-month internship as one of the assistant golf professionals at Congressional CC, former site of the 1997 U.S. Open and one of the top ranked golf courses in the country.

Another opportunity ranked among the best internship opportunities at the PGA Show is the PGA Tour Internship Program. Kendall Murphy, Tournament Coordinator, will be the first student from UNLV to take on this challenging but unique opportunity. Any student wanting to apply for this internship will be given the chance to work with junior golf, tournament operations and learn about what

working with the PGA Tour is like.

Finally, Walt Disney Resorts has offered a great opportunity for PGM Students to work for Disney World Golf, which features a large network of several golf courses and world class facilities across the Orlando region in Florida. This opportunity gives great exposure for PGM students and can be a key resume builder for any golf professional.

Among other internship opportunities for UNLV PGM Students are the Broadmoor Golf Club and Resort in Colorado, Medinah Country Club in Illinois, Jim Mclean Golf Schools in FL, the prestigious Lake of Isles GC in CT, and Ko'olina Golf Club in Hawaii. *-by Andrew Kam*

PGM Pro Tip of the Month - Improving Your Chip Shots

Isn't it a great feeling when you can pull off shots that no one in your group thought you could possibly do. What does it take to perform at that level? Creativity and some measure of golf talent are needed to play well around the greens on any golf course.

Let's create a shot scenario. You are just short of the green that is protected by two bunkers up front guarding a front pin location. The flag stick is about ten feet from those frightening bunkers right in front of you. This shot is typical of most shots you get on the golf course after short siding yourself on your approach shot. It requires you to hit a high ball flight that lands softly on the green, releasing no more than 2 feet. Many novice players struggle with this type of shot, when in fact, it can be quite easy if the proper technique and concepts are applied.

Many Professional Tour players use what they call the bounce on their wedges to hit these seemingly amazing high shots around the green. Bounce on any wedge refers to the back edge, or the "following" edge of the club. Using the bounce properly causes the club to slide under the ball, producing a high, soft shot.

Here is a practical drill you can use to practice and get more comfortable at hitting those high shots. First, grab a marker, preferably a sharpie and mark a line on the back edge of the golf club. This line represents the bounce and also shows which part of the club needs to hit the ground for hitting high shots. Now try a few

practice strokes and get your right palm to face the sky at impact. The motion of releasing your right palm should cause the club to open up, thus adding loft to the shot and forcing the back edge (bounce) of the wedge to hit the ground. Once you've mastered this movement, you can try experimenting by releasing your right hand faster through the ball for more spin and higher shots.

Let us now construct the exact opposite scenario for low shots. Using the same club you had used for your high shot, you can manipulate the loft to produce a low shot that will release like a normal chip shot. For this type of shot, you are doing just the opposite of using the bounce. The leading part of the wedge is

called dig. Using a marker again, draw a line along the front edge of the club. Your objective now is to get the front edge to hit the ground at impact. To do this, the palm of your right hand should be facing down at impact. It should feel like you are covering the ball at impact.

The concepts of bounce and dig are simple concepts that can be incorporated into a conventional pitch or chipping stroke. The key is learning to use your right hand properly in releasing it at the moment of impact. Once you've mastered these techniques, you will have a lot easier time managing your short game around the green.

- By Aaron Dunaye



Right: Aaron's right hand faces down, and the leading edge of the club is striking the ball at impact, producing lower chip shots.

Left: Aaron's right hand faces upward, releasing the clubhead first, thus opening the face and using bounce and producing higher shots.

Tournament Recap - Andrew Rose wins 2nd Place at Disney PGM Invitational



Andrew Rose at the 2007 PGM Invitational

The 2006 Fall Semester concluded with Andrew Elliot blowing out the field at The Falls at Lake Las Vegas, shooting a 1-under par 71 leading by two shots over Nick Rodgers, shooting a 1-over par 73. Cold conditions combined with a lengthy par-72 layout made low scores hard to find in the season's final event.

The 2006 Fall Match Play Championship is down to two finalists. Evan Ives and Matt Leetsma are the final pairing for the stellar championship match. Ives has won this championship twice in a row, but he will have to manage his game well against Leetsma, who was a very tough competitor in his earlier playing career before joining the PGM Program.

On January 28th, 2007, seven PGM Students from UNLV represented the program at the Disney PGM Invitational in Orlando, FL. In the end, Andrew Rose and his teammate from Ferris State captured 2nd place in the event. Rose and his teammate combined for a score of 76, just two strokes off the leader. Not only did the PGM students of UNLV represent us well at the Show, but proved to be very respectable players on the golf course.

The first event of 2007 is February 11th at Desert Pines GC. The field for the first event is looking strong with names like Nick Rodgers, Vardon winner Andrew Kam, recent PAT qualifier Aaron Dunaye, and Andrew Elliot. - By Andrew Kam

Fall 2006 Concluded, Spring Plans Set in Motion

The semester's first PGMSA Meeting was a great success as all but five students attended the venue. Guest speakers Jake Bader and Angie Rodriguez attended the meeting and spoke about internship opportunities at Incline Village Golf Club in Lake Tahoe. The opportunity is said to be a great experience by students who have already completed internships there.

Chris Brown, Internship Coordinator for the PGM Program at UNLV, also spoke about the upcoming deadline for students to have their internship designation forms set. The deadline is February 21st, 2007.

Spring 2007 also marks the start of new changes set for the program. New policies and procedures have been set for running tournaments, merchandising, and fundraising. Allison Lombardo, a senior, has recently been appointed as the semester's new Fundraising Chair. The installation of a new simulator room for club repair seminars and player development classes has also been completed.

The meeting concluded with a taking of class photos and brief interviews with the guest speakers. Andrew Kam was also awarded the prestigious Vardon Trophy for having the low scoring average of 77.67 for tournaments in

Fall 2006.

This next semester looks to be promising with the calendar of events set and the new exciting opportunities for the program to grow and for students to excel at the highest level in the golf industry.

-by Andrew Kam

"Success is most often achieved under less than ideal conditions."

Play St. Andrews and Pebble Beach at UNLV!

The new simulator room is finally up and running! This 'state of the art' system is a great addition to the tools and resources now available to PGM students on campus. The simulator is located just across from the PGM Office in the Hotel College, and it features a standard driving range mat with a virtual screen that players can hit into. Students will be able to use the simulator with the help of a supervisor or instructor. Some of the best golf courses in the world, such as Pebble Beach, Congressional and St. Andrews are loaded on the simulator. There is also a practice function that allows students to hone in on their accuracy and technique. It is just like having a golf course in your own back yard!

There is also a club repair lab located in the same room with desks and club repair equipment where students can practice their skills in fixing all kinds of golf clubs. The addition of this new facility gives students the opportunity to grow in their knowledge of club repair and develop in the area of teaching and playing as future golf professionals.

-by Andrew Kam

"Golf is not a game of perfect, it is a game of confidence."



Photo: PGM Simulator Room



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The UNLV PGA/PGM™ Program would like to thank:



*Jim Yanchinich
Director of Schools
for The GolfWorks*

We would like to thank Jim for providing us with his time, leadership, and expertise in club making and club repair. His efforts have greatly helped our PGA/PGM™ students in fulfilling their club repair and design requirements.



A PGA Accredited Program



LAKE LAS VEGAS RESORT



*Greg Brockelman
Director of Golf
The Falls Country Club at
Lake Las Vegas*

For hosting our player development program for two weeks at the Falls practice facility. The hospitality they showed us is greatly appreciated. The students enjoyed practicing their short game drills and playing 9 holes after their player development session.