THE GRAND OPENING OF COYOTE SPRINGS

On May 1, 2008 the PGA of America opened their western home away from home for PGA members 50 minutes north of Las Vegas, Nevada at Coyote Springs. The PGA Staff and four PGM Students were fortunate to witness the Grand Opening ceremonies as the President of the PGA, Brian Whitcomb and the CEO of the PGA, Joe Steranka raised the PGA flag at the entrance of the property. Once fully completed, Coyote Springs will span 43,000 acres, including 159,000 homes and 16 golf courses. At the conclusion of the ceremony, the PGM staff and students played the property’s first course, Jack Nicklaus’ Signature Course, The Chase.

The 11th Hole of Jack Nicklaus’ Signature Course: The Chase

Upon completion of play the staff and students returned to campus for the last PGMSA Meeting of the academic year. The meeting agenda included student elections for the 2008/9 Executive Board (results on p. 3) and a talk by Brian Whitcomb and Joe Steranka in a town hall meeting setting. Whitcomb and Steranka spoke on a wide range of topics, such as the future of the PGA and advising students how to prepare for interviews. They expressed enthusiasm about the opportunity to build a strong partnership between UNLV’s PGM Program and Coyote Springs development. “Coyote Springs is going to be a great laboratory for the present and future students of UNLV’s PGM Program,” Director Christopher Cain remarked. Such a partnership has already begun to formulate, beginning with Rob Sanders, a 2007 graduate of the PGM Program at UNLV and the First Assistant at The Chase. Sanders is excited to be part of this development at its initial stage. “I am thrilled to be a part of the first staff here at Coyote Springs.”

The day concluded with the 2007/8 PGMSA Executive Board attending the William F. Harrah College of Hotel Administration Vallen Dinner of Distinction held at the Mirage Grand Ballroom where Joe Steranka was honored for his contributions to the hospitality industry.

PRESIDENT’S CORNER

The 2008 Spring Semester was both productive and fun with numerous social events, golf tournaments and fundraising opportunities. The semester concluded with a memorable visit from the President of the PGA, Brian Whitcomb and the CEO of the PGA, Joe Steranka to the PGMSA. I would like to thank the PGM Staff, the PGMSA and most of all, the Executive Board who made this year so successful. Seeing traditions such as The Director’s Cup continue and new ones begin like Level 4 has shown me that we will continue to be the standard that all PGM Student Associations across the nation will have to be measured against.

I would like to wish all of the students the best of luck this upcoming year. I will look forward to future President’s Corners to keep in touch with the activities of the students and the Program.

-Reese McCall, PGMSA Outgoing President, Senior
UNLV GOLF MARATHON BENEFITS PGA AND FIRST TEE

On May 9th, Seniors Bud Gazaway and Reese McCall, Director Chris Cain, and Graduate Assistant Brian Soulé played 100 holes of golf to raise money for the Southern Nevada Chapter of the PGA and The First Tee of Southern Nevada. The 100-hole marathon took place at Angel Park Golf Club’s Cloud Nine Short Course. After raising $3,200 for both organizations the participates were ready for a day of golf.

Director Chris Cain is no stranger to golf marathons, once holding the Guinness Book of World Records for most golf holes played in 12 hours (505 Holes). Brian Soulé was truly inspired by the World Record and the success of this year’s golf marathon brought inspiration to future fundraising ideas for the Spring of 2009.

The golf marathon benefitted the PGA Southern Nevada Chapter and The First Tee of Southern Nevada’s effort to grow the game of golf. If you are interested in donating to this great cause, please contact the PGM Office for more information.

On April 26th-27th the Underclassmen and Upperclassmen battled for the right to hold the coveted Director’s Cup. The Underclassmen were trying to hold onto the Cup since their 11-7 victory in last year’s inaugural event. The teams were confident going into the weekend play.

After the first day of matches the Underclassmen and Upperclassmen were at a deadlock with three points each. Also, four of the matches went down to the 18th hole adding to the excitement of the day.

On Sunday the Underclassmen took charge of the matches winning ten points setting them up for a repeat win of The Director’s Cup. The Upperclassmen were denied once again the glory of holding the most cherished trophy of the UNLV PGM Program.

This year the Underclassmen were spearheaded by the play of Andrew “Ace” Elliott, who scored two and a half points for the Underclassmen and Nick Rodgers who also went 2-0-1 in his matches.

Students are already talking about next years Director’s Cup Matches. The Upperclassmen will have a strong team drawing from many Sophomores that played well during this year’s Director’s Cup. However, you never know about the incoming Freshmen and the talent they will bring to the Underclassmen Team. Time will only tell. We are all looking forward to another battle at the end of April.

DIRECTOR’S CUP RESULTS

Upperclassmen:
Captain John Gazaway, Senior
Will Bertz, Junior
Michael DiMeglio, Senior
Matt Henderson, Senior
Evan Ives, Junior
Brian Markel, Senior
Reese McCall, Senior
Erik Mettille, Junior
Cris Novich, Junior
Emanuel Raddocia, Senior
Rance Yanabu, Junior

Underclassmen:
Captain Shawna Richardson, Sophomore
Mike Dunn, Freshman
Andrew Elliott, Sophomore
Charles Greene, Sophomore
Brandon Johnson, Sophomore
Matt Leestma, Sophomore
Shaw Light, Freshman
Pat O’Hara, Freshman
Nick Rodgers, Sophomore
Ben Wallis, Freshman
Kevin Waters, Sophomore

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Upperclassman Erik Mettille and Underclassman Mike Dunn watch Underclassman Nick Rodgers tee-off on the 10th hole at Las Vegas National.

The 2008 Directors Cup Champions from left to right: Kevin Waters, Brandon Johnson, Charlie Greene, Captain Shawna Richardson, Pat O’Hara, Andrew Elliott, Ben Wallis, Nick Rodgers, Matt Leestma and Shaw Light. Not Pictured Mike Dunn.

A gallery builds on the side of the 13th Green of Las Vegas National on the Sunday of Director’s Cup.
During the PGMSA’s final General Meeting of the 2007-2008 Academic Year the students held their annual Executive Board Elections. The PGMSA saw an impressive number of students wanting to lead their fellow future professionals. Speeches were written and practiced before the big night. After words of wisdom from this year’s past Executive Board on the importance of each office, speeches were heard by the whole PGMSA.

The results of the elections were as follows:

**Board of Directors:**
- President: Gary Xavier
- Vice President: Shawna Richardson
- Treasurer: Jon Horner
- Secretary: Michael Brown
- Tournament Director: Andrew Ward

**Class Representatives:**
- Senior: Cris Novich
- Junior: Andrew Elliott
- Sophomore: Jeff Kragt

The Freshmen Representative will be elected during the first PGMSA meeting, which is scheduled for August 28th at 7PM in the Boyd Dining Hall.

At the beginning of the fall semester the Executive Board will be looking for volunteers to hold Chair Positions including Travel Chair, Fundraising Chair, Social Chair, Merchandise Chair and Public Relations Chair. They will also look to each class to participate in tournament operations and run their individual tournaments over the course of the upcoming academic year.

The 2008/9 PGMSA Executive Board is looking forward to participating in many events this fall including Par For The Cure, and running the practice facility for the PGA Tour’s Justin Timberlake Shriners’ Hospitals for Children Open at TPC Summerlin October 13-19.

**ANOHER SUMMER OF WORK AND PLAY**

Summer internships are in full swing and the UNLV PGM students are working hard and having great experiences. There are approximately 70 students currently on internship across the U.S., from Hawaii to New Jersey. This summer, students are interning at some impressive and varied facilities, including Bandon Dunes Golf Resort, The Broadmoor, PGA of America, Congressional Country Club, La Costa Resort & Spa, Pronghorn, Cordillera Golf Club, Crooked Stick Golf Club, and The First Tee of Southern Nevada. All internship facilities provide excellent opportunities for personal and professional growth. We are privileged to have such great support from all internship facilities, both past and present.

Director Christopher Cain and Internship Coordinator Christopher Brown traveled to Bandon Dunes Resort in Bandon, Oregon in June to visit with three-month intern and Junior in the program, Shawna Richardson. Cain and Brown spent three days touring the facilities, golf courses and meeting with internship supervisors at the resort, solidifying a relationship that will benefit future students of the program.

Junior, Andrew Elliott, is interning at The Club at Cordillera in Edwards, Colorado. He began his internship in early May when there was still snow on the ground. However, now they are in the heart of their golf season. “I have really learned a lot at The Club at Cordillera, working in the golf shop has taught me valuable skills that I will carry throughout my time in the golf industry.”

**PGA/PGM CALLAWAY LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE**

April 5-6th, Senior Bud Gazaway and Sophomore Shawna Richardson were the representatives from UNLV’s PGM Program at the Annual PGA/PGM Leadership Conference sponsored by Callaway Golf. Bud and Shawna were selected through an application process between other leaders in the program.

During the conference, they met with PGA Professionals at the PGA Village in Port St. Lucie, Florida and participated in events with two PGM students from each of the 19 PGA/PGM Universities. They attended workshops, played golf and were given tours of the PGA Learning and Historical Center. The conference proved to be a great experience for the students. After their return to Las Vegas they shared those experiences and ideas from the other schools with the PGMSA during their next general meeting.
UNLV PGM RAISING THE BAR

As a first year graduate assistant for the program, I have had the pleasure to be involved in this spring semester's programs, events and talks that are clearly indicative of the growth and prestige of UNLV PGM. This semester had the best guest speaker series to date, with such highlights as the number one teaching professional, Butch Harmon and the President and CEO of the PGA of America.

The PGMSA organized events that are sure to be established as traditions in semesters to come, such as the 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament and the Level 4 Semi-formal and Roast. Increased participation was experienced in tournament play and student involvement with the organization of PGMSA Golf Tournaments with each class running an individual event in its entirety. The PGMSA continued to support the Las Vegas community by participating in events such as The 100 Hole Golf Marathon (see p. 2).

My interaction with the Executive Board supports my observation that the PGMSA is going in the right direction. The efforts of the E-Board for 2007/8 were impressive, and an early May meeting with the incoming board for the 2008/9 suggests this upcoming academic year will surely not disappoint anyone. Their plans will be detailed in future newsletters and publications like PGA Magazine.

The successful semester can be credited to these efforts of the PGMSA who are supported by the leadership and guidance of the PGM Staff here at UNLV. The PGM staff has exhibited their genuine concern and interest in the progress of each student during their time here at UNLV and as they embark upon their professional careers. As a new member of the office, it is clear that this support system coupled with the ambition of the PGMSA will only further accelerate the Program.

To celebrate these efforts, the Fall Semester will begin with the 5th Annual Family & Friends Golf Tournament at Cascata, a Golf Magazine "Top 100 Course" and one of the most exclusive courses in the Las Vegas area. This opportunity was made possible by the efforts of Director Chris Cain and the entire PGM Staff. For more information on this event, please contact the PGM Office.

Go Rebs!!!
Hit 'em Straight!!!

-Michael Pias, Graduate Assistant