



REBEL RUNNER

PGA GOLF MANAGEMENT NEWSLETTER

UNLV Hires Program Coordinator

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The end of the 2009 spring semester saw some changes in staff within the UNLV PGA Golf Management program. The departure of both graduate assistants created a need for additional help. The much needed void was filled with the hiring of PGA Professional, Eddy Renio.

Eddy comes to UNLV after spending three and a half years helping to establish a PGA Golf Management program at Eastern Kentucky University (EKU) and earning his Master's degree in Physical Education with an emphasis in Sport Administration. Prior to EKU, Eddy was the Assistant Director for the PGA Golf Management Program at New Mexico State University (NMSU) from 2001-2006. He is also an alumnus of NMSU's PGA Golf Management program.

Eddy's role at UNLV will be working extensively with UNLV's Play Golf America University programming, player development, recruitment, and teaching the PGA learning objectives.

When asked about his prior experiences, Eddy said "Over the past 10 years working at NMSU and EKU, I learned that to be successful, you have to be comfortable in your role and have a great working relationship with your team." He also added, "I am excited to become a part of the UNLV PGA family! The staff has really done a great job of developing a solid program that just keeps getting better. I hope that I can add to that success!"



President's Corner

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I am Ben Wallis, your Student Association President for the 2009-2010 academic year. I am a native of Portland, Oregon and this will be my third year at UNLV. I began my college career at the University of Oregon before transferring to UNLV. Once I arrived in Las Vegas I knew I made the right choice by changing schools. Everyone here is passionate about this program, both students and staff members. My role as President is to ensure the growth of our program and build upon the foundation that has already been established.

In my opinion, the best part about the UNLV PGA Golf Management program is the experience students gain while on internships. Thus far in my PGM career, I have had the privilege to work at two outstanding facilities, Troon North in Scottsdale, Arizona and Pronghorn in Bend, Oregon. The internships allowed me to gain experience in many areas as well as make connections with people that may benefit my career in years to come.

The one thing I love about our program at UNLV is the philosophy of "quality over quantity." Since our program consists of 80-100 students it allows us to have a more intimate experience. I feel I can safely say each person knows one another on some level and I like to think of us as a big family. Each year the goal of our program is to improve upon the past years and become better in each area. I take this on as my responsibility as President and to create events that people are excited about and want to take part in. I could not be more excited for this year and with the help of everyone we can make it the best year yet.



Ben Wallis
 2009-2010 UNLV PGASA President



Farewell to Graduate Assistants

The UNLV PGA Golf Management program said farewell to both graduate students, Brian Soule and Michael Pius, this summer. Michael moved to Pennsylvania where his wife accepted a position with Susquehanna University. We would also like to extend our best wishes and congratulations to Michael and his new bride, Marie, who were recently wed on June 6th.

Michael played an integral role in the organization of several events such as Friends and Family, Golf-A-Thon, and Par for the Cure. He also worked closely with the PGA Student Association to coordinate student activities such as golf tournaments, the 3 on 3 Basketball Tournament, and student meetings.

Congratulations also goes out to Brian Soule who just became the newest member of the Penn State PGA Golf Management program as Internship Coordinator. Brian's new position will have him working closely with students and the golfing community and instruct several of the PGA learning objectives. Brian is excited about the new challenge in front of him and wants to thank the staff at UNLV for preparing him for this next step in his career.



Michael Pius



Brian Soule

Callaway Leadership Session



Left to Right: Monica Stratton of Callaway Golf, Students: Jeff Kragt, Andrew Elliott, and Director of PGA Universities, Cheri Tschetschot

During April 4-5, 2009, Andrew Elliott and Jeff Kragt, joined students from the PGA's twenty accredited universities for the PGA Golf Management University Program Leadership Session, in Port St. Lucie, Florida.

The conference brought together current and future leaders of the PGA of America. The two day session provided a great opportunity for students to

learn about how the PGA of America operates. Keynote speaker, Joe Steranka—CEO of the PGA of America, spoke to the students about the current state of the association and what he envisioned for the future.

Each day concluded with a golf tournament matching PGA staff members with students. Kragt and Elliott represented UNLV in great fashion as they placed second on the final day of competition. Elliott was also on the winning team on day one of competition.

Bill Cioffoletti, Director of Recruiting and Community Outreach, treated the students to a tour of the PGA Historical Center. While at the center, students were able to hold and take photos with trophies from golf's "four majors." They toured the PGA Center for Golf Learning and Performance—a state-of-the-art learning center that provides golfers with the newest technology and a practice area that includes bunkers with different types of sand from around the U.S.

Thanks to Callaway Golf and the PGA of America for hosting such a great event!

Spring Events Results

The Spring 2009 semester was another active time for the PGA Golf Management Student Association. Social chair Cris Novich led a great calendar of events, ranging from sporting events to social events throughout the Las Vegas valley. Early in the semester the program saw the return of junior Charlie Greene and seniors Chris Barley and Bud Gazaway on the basketball courts. During the second-annual 3 on 3 basketball tournament, "Team Bud" took home the trophy yet again!

Later in the semester, the students took it to the diamond for the semi-annual softball game. Held each semester, the softball game is a competition like none other. The team of "Seniors/Freshmen" take on the team of "Sophomores/Juniors". Keeping tradition, President Gary Xavier served as grill master for the pregame barbeque. The seniors and freshmen put up a good fight, but they came up short as the sophomores and juniors ran away with the game.



Meet Your New Executive Board

During the last student association meeting it was time for the “changing of the guard” as eight new officers were voted into office. As always the elections brought out passionate and emotional speeches by each candidate. It is always exciting to see students step forward to take leadership roles and take ownership of *your* program.

First, we would like to thank the outgoing board for all of their hard work and efforts in continuing to move the program forward. Also, thanks to Gary Xavier for the many years he has spent on the Executive Board and his leadership as President of the student association.

2009-10 Executive Board

President.....Ben Wallis
Vice President.....Lindsay Hoskins
Secretary.....Jason Dobey
Treasurer.....Andrew Elliott
Tournament Director.....Marc Carpenter
Senior Representative.....Charlie Green
Junior Representative.....Patrick O'Hara
Sophomore Representative....Roy Smith
Freshman Representative.....TBD



Left to Right, Front: Andrew Elliott, Jason Dobey, Lindsay Hoskins; Back: Roy Smith; Patrick O'Hara, Ben Wallis, Marc Carpenter, and Charlie Green.

Your Executive Board is here to serve you!

If you have any questions or want to get involved, let us know. We are here to help make this program the “Premier” PGA Golf Management program in the country.

Gol f-a-Thon – One for the Record Books



Those in attendance got to witness history being made and enjoyed a fun-filled day of activities. The day included a Demo Day, Long Drive Competition, and featured a Restaurant Row which showcased some of the area's finest food establishments.

We would like to thank the following people and organizations that made this event a success: Fox Sports Radio, Jason's Deli, our volunteers from the golfing community, the UNLV PGA Golf Management Student Association, the students of TCA 490 Event Management class, Par For The Cure, Las Vegas Golf Club and their staff, Women's Southern Nevada Golf Association, Callaway, Cobra, Nickent, Nike, Ping, Taylor Made, Titleist, See More Putters, KTNV Channel 13 News and the Southern Nevada Chapter of the PGA.

We would like to especially thank Michael Pius and Reese McCall who helped plan and organize the event. Finally, a big thank you to Christopher Cain and Brian Esposito for sacrificing their bodies, hands, back, feet and whatever else hurt for the following week!

At 7:00am on May 1st 2009 Christopher Cain, (Director of the PGA Golf Management Program) and Brian Esposito (Founder of Par For The Cure) hit their first shots of the day. Twelve hours and 1068 holes later the two men completed a grueling marathon of golf that would break a normal human being. Their feat is positioned to establish a Guinness World Record for the most holes played by a tandem in twelve hours. Averaging just under a minute and a half per hole (85 seconds) they both played over 500 holes each. Esposito completed 501 holes, and Cain completed 567 holes and established a record for the most holes played by an individual in 12 hours.

The purpose of their efforts was to raise awareness for Par For The Cure, dedicated to raise funds for breast cancer research, and for the PGA Golf Management program at UNLV. The event was a great success raising nearly \$8,000 in donations.

The event was also held in conjunction with a Play Golf America Day, coordinated by local PGA professionals and PGA Golf Management students.



Family and Friends –Just Around the Corner

Great golf, great food and great friends! What do these things all have in common? You can enjoy all three on August 22, 2009 during the Family and Friends Golf Tournament and Banquet hosted by the UNLV PGA Golf Management program. The event gives parents, students and supporters the opportunity to meet and get to know the staff at UNLV. The day will start with golf and end with an awards and special recognition banquet.

The tournament will be held at the nationally acclaimed Cascata Golf Course. Cascata has been rated as one of the top courses to play by both amateurs and professionals in the country. The tournament will begin with a 8:00 am shotgun start and evening festivities will be held at the Stan Fulton Building, a state of the art hospitality and dining facility located on the campus of UNLV. The dinner will be prepared by UNLV's own award winning culinary experts. Our keynote speaker will be PGA member Monica Stratton, the Supervisor for Staff Programs for Callaway Golf.



Monica Stratton, PGA
Supervisor for Staff
Programs
Callaway Golf



Spots are filling fast! To register online, go to:

<http://unlvpgafamilyfriend.dojiggy.com>

Note: The site will not permit you to register a family member and a student at the same time. You must register family members first and then go back to the site and register the student. Any questions please contact Barbara.

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