

Christopher P. Cain

Brief Biography

Cain, honored to be one of 375 PGA Master Professionals since 1969, has been a member of the PGA of America since 1999. As a graduate from Penn State's PGA University (B.S. '98) and Recreation, Tourism Management Programs (M.S. '04), he served the club and golf industry for 11 years in public, resort, and private settings with management experience in assistant, teaching, and head professional positions. Cain's graduate studies included work with Penn State's PGA University Program, and Departments of Kinesiology, Turfgrass Management, and Exercise and Sports Science. Cain's thesis explored the relationship between voluntary golfer practice types and performance.

Cain moved from the Philadelphia Section PGA to the Southwest Section PGA in 2004 to reestablish UNLV's PGA University Program. While working as Program Director, Cain served the PGA at local, regional, and national levels. Cain's service with the Southern Nevada Chapter in 2005 evolved to Past President in 2013. For two terms he served the Southwest Section Board of Directors, and chaired several committees from 2009-2014. Cain also served terms as an appointed member of the Board of Directors for allied associations including: The First Tee of Southern Nevada (junior body); the Southern Nevada Golf Association (amateur body); the National Advisory Board to Reed Exhibitions (development strategies for the PGA Show and Fall Expo); and currently serves on the Board of Directors for the Nevada Golf Alliance.

Cain's PGA National service includes: Adjunct Faculty Member (instructing 1,450 Apprentices; 2006-2014); PGA University Accreditation Team (2012-2016); President, PGA University Executive Association (2014-2016); PGA Magazine National Advisory Board (2010-present); PGA National Education Committee (2012-2018); Multiple PGA Task Forces (2013-2018); PGA of America Speaker's Bureau (educating over 2,000 PGA Professionals; 2010-present); and Co-Chair PGA National University Committee (2020-present).

In 2013, while directing UNLV's PGA University Program and serving his Chapter, Section and National body, Cain completed his Doctor of Philosophy in Higher Education Administration from UNLV with an emphasis on Educational Leadership and Finance. His dissertation examined student, program, and institutional support characteristics of PGA University programs that relate to students' intent to persist. Cain has published and delivered numerous academic and trade publications and invited presentations. Cain recently partnered with Kendall Hunt Inc. in publishing the textbook *Golf's Rebirth: Rapidly Evolving Applications in Hospitality and Sport Management*. He has helped raise funds to endow scholarships, build a university center for golf management education, acquire grants, contracts, and generated course fees for golf research, instruction, and professional development programming in excess of several millions of dollars.

Cain's research interests include the exploration of club and golf management competencies necessary for career advancement; student persistence within higher education; work/life balance within the club and golf management industry; and diversity and gender inequity within the golf industry. Cain currently leads the UNLV PGA University Program, the Dwaine Knight Center for Golf Management, and golf performance research for UNLV's Sport Research and Innovation Initiative. Cain has led professional development programming for UNLV's Sands Center for club and golf management professionals. In addition, Cain teaches courses in Leadership and Management, Customer Experience, and Facility Management for the world-renowned UNLV Harrah College of Hospitality.

Cain has been recognized by his peers as a national finalist for the PGA's Professional Development

(Education) and the Bill Strausbaugh (Mentorship) award also receiving this recognition multiple times at the Section and Chapter levels. Cain has also been recognized by the Section and Chapter as Golf Professional of the Year and recipient of his Chapter's Lifetime Achievement awards. Finally, Cain has been recognized multiple times by the PGA Presidents council for growing the game and was honored to share facility recognition for multiple PGA Merchandiser of the Year awards for the Philadelphia Section PGA.