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Where are they now?

Trans-Miss scholars impacting game of golf

There is little doubt that the Trans-Mississippi Golf Association's Scholarship Program is having an impact – on both the educational opportunities for prospective turf students and the game of golf. From high-end metropolitan golf facilities that are hosting major golf championships to remote golf destinations to advances in turf science, former Trans scholars are making their mark. In this issue of *The Transcript* we'll take a look at a few former Trans scholars to find out where they are now, what they've been up to and just how receiving a turf scholarship helped them jump start their careers.



Dan Dinelli, North Shore Country Club

- Some superintendents have a long list of stops on their resumes. Chicago's North Shore Country Club superintendent Dan Dinelli isn't one of them.
- "That's kind of the weird thing about me...is that I've been at North Shores Country Club my entire life," says Dinelli, a 49-year-old certified superintendent who has good genes in turf management. "My father (Joe) was a superintendent there and I grew up there, on the 15th hole, in a home the club supplied. I've been working there since I was a sophomore in high school, did my internship while I was going to Michigan State at the nearby Glenview Club." After earning his two-year horticulture degree from community college straight out of high school, Dinelli headed for East Lansing, Mich., on his father's advice.
- "My Dad convinced me to go to Michigan State, which took very little coaxing at the time," says Dinelli, who went on to earn his Trans-Miss scholarship and a degree in turf-grass science at MSU.
- But it was at North Shores, where his father hosted the 1983 U.S. Amateur Championship, that the younger Dinelli got his "on-course education." In the early 1990s, the club made Joe and Dan Dinelli co-superintendents and Dan took over for his father at the elder's retirement in 1994.
- These days he and an extremely stable staff of 17 take care of the course. Dinelli says he and cousin Jerry work closely together managing things.
- "He's been there a year shy of me," Dinelli says. "And I have a foreman, Juan Villereao, who has been there actually a year longer than I have. Actually with that tight staff, and I'm proud to say, that most of the guys have been there over 20 years. It's a seasoned staff that knows their job well and takes great pride in it."

North Shore

Cont'd on page 3

Greetings

Dear Trans-Miss Supporter,

■ Where did you go to school? Most of us went to college or an advanced professional school and maybe one or more of our classmates became someone famous. We all take pride in the “alumni” connection, especially if our school has a powerhouse athletic program!

■ I graduated from Drake University. It’s in Des Moines, Iowa. I was on the golf team there. In that way only I have something in common with 2007 Masters champion Zach Johnson. While I managed to play in a few USGA national championships, Zach is clearly the most successful Drake golfer!

■ One other Drake alumnus you may recognize was Steve Allen the comedian. He actually started the Tonight Show and was later followed by Johnny Carson. Another famous Drake alumnus in the entertainment business was Lew Anderson. Never heard of him? Well, he was the last of three men to play Clarabell the Clown on the Howdy Doody Show! He was the only one of the three to ever actually speak on the show. Through out the series of Saturday morning kids classics Clarabell never spoke. His honk of the horn and his seltzer spray were his means of communication and fun. At the end of the final airing of the show, Clarabell tearfully said “Goodbye, kids”.

■ You will see from this edition of the Transcript that the Trans-Mississippi Golf Association and its Turf Scholarship Fund have some scholarship “alumni” that are successful and well-known in their field. The mission and purpose of the Trans-Miss Turf Scholarship Fund is to help educate tomorrow’s best golf course superintendents. The total number of alumni scholars now exceeds 900. You can see the list on our website (www.trans-miss.com).

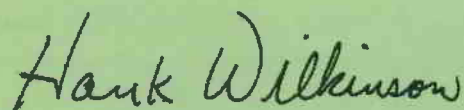
■ My fellow directors and I believe in this mission. Any college degree is expensive, but a turfgrass degree is right up there with any other profession. Get to know a superintendent and you will be impressed with the depth and breadth of their knowledge and understanding of biology, weather, chemistry, engineering, mechanics, business, computers and software, human resource management and public relations. Name another professional who works against Mother Nature, for a demanding client and puts in such long hours!

■ Today’s golf course superintendent is clearly the most important professional in the golf business. It’s a tough job and we NEED people to do it!

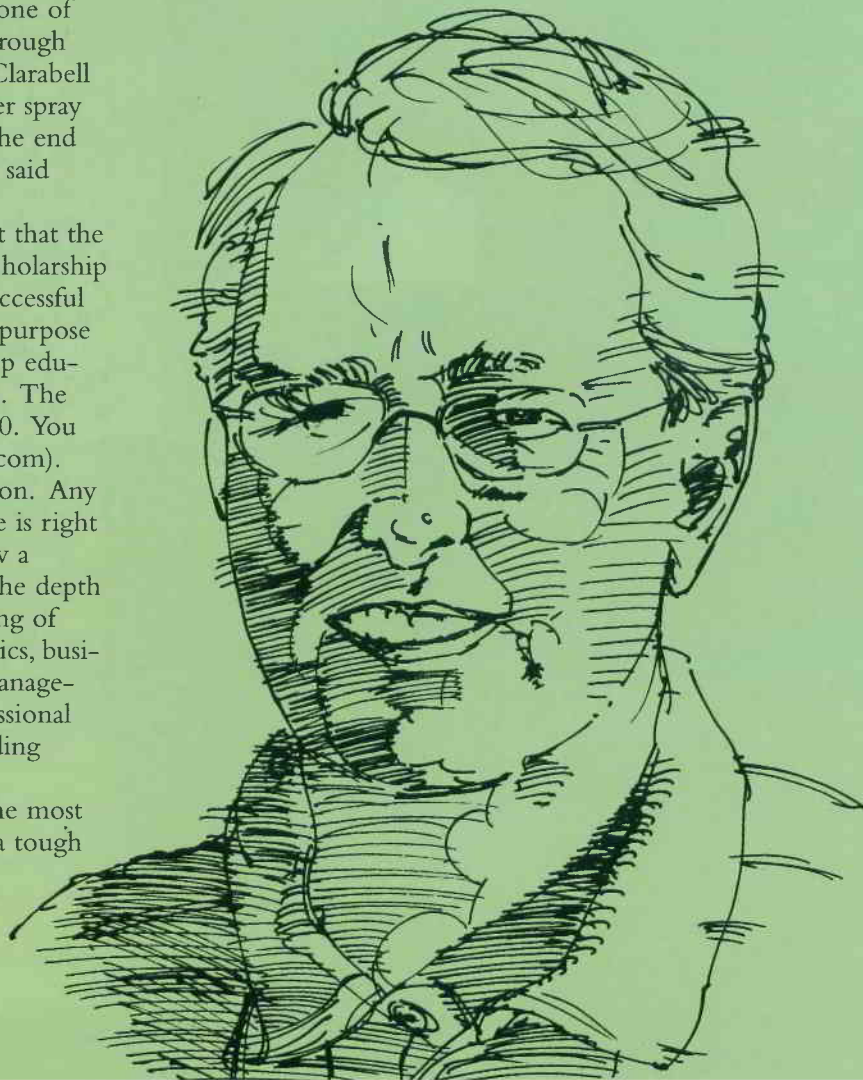
Congratulations and thanks to the men profiled in the following pages. We are proud of our Trans-Miss alums.

■ At this time of year we send you our special greetings of the holiday season and wish you a happy and joyful new year. Also, if year-end charitable giving is on your “to-do” list, please consider supporting the Trans-Miss Turf Scholarship Fund.

Best wishes,



Hank Wilkinson
President



■ Storied North Shores, which celebrated its 100th anniversary in 2005, recently completed a several-phase renovation project, according to the superintendent.

■ “We called it a ‘preservation,’ where we actually tried to bring back some of the historic features that, basically, time wanted to erase...” says Dinelli, winner of the 2009 GCSAA President’s Award for Environmental Stewardship. “...the bunkering, the green styles, what not. It’s an old, classic, park-style golf course.”

■ North Shores, slated to host the 2011 Western Amateur, now has three water features that have been added over the years. It has 88 bunkers and classic push-up bent/Poa greens.

■ “The greens are fairly small, averaging just under 6000 square feet,” Dinelli says. “It’s stood the test of time because it is a true test of golf...there is no trickery, what you see is what you get. It’s a very fair test that I think most good golfers appreciate because you have to hit a variety of shots to score well.”

■ Dinelli married his high school sweetheart, Laure, and the couple has two daughters. Carrie is a senior in high school and Jessie is a sophomore.

■ “They’re both good students and active in sports, in fact Carrie is being recruited for her diving skills by Ohio State and the University of Wisconsin and she was just accepted to Michigan State last week while I was out of town,” Dinelli boasts. ■ “We’re so proud of them because they are so active and engaged in their lives.”

David Gourlay, Colbert Hills Golf Club



■ Another family that really knows the value of the Trans-Mississippi Golf Association Scholarship program is the Gourlays of Colbert Hills Golf Club in Manhattan, Kan.

David, currently general manager at Champions Tour and Kansas State great Jim Colbert’s gem, and son Matt, who is the course’s golf course superintendent, are both Trans scholars.

■ “I don’t know what I would have done without it,” Gourlay says of the support he got from the Trans back in the early 1980s. “It wasn’t a huge amount of money at the time, but it was a huge amount for me. At Texas A&M, it was a lifesaver for me. It really helped me maintain the confidence to enter the profession. When it came along it kind of reinforced my direction and focus that this was the profession to get into.”

■ The Gourlays can literally trace their roots right back to the game’s first course caretaker, Old Tom Morris. Golf ball and club makers

back in Scotland, the family produced a woman who became Old Tom’s second wife. So it’s probably little wonder that David’s father, David Sr., spent 50 years as a golf course superintendent in Canada and was a founding father of the Canadian GCSA back in the 1960s. David Jr. began his turf education at the University of Guelph in Ontario, Canada, before moving to Penn State for a year and then finishing up at Texas A&M. It was at College Station that he earned his Trans-Miss scholarship on two occasions.

■ In college, Gourlay met his wife Barbara. She also has a turf degree and spent many years running her own golf course soil testing business. The Gourlays’ other child, daughter Lindsay, is also in the golf business. She’s currently food and beverage manager/GM for Red Tail Golf Club near Cleveland.

■ In the late 1990s, David took over as grow-in superintendent of Colbert’s pet project in Manhattan, Kan., after stops at the woman-only Ladies Golf Club of Toronto, exclusive Beacon Hall in that city, Eagle Creek in Ottawa and the Club of Summerlea in Montreal. He served in several capacities during the development of Colbert Hills, which plays a central role in the education of K-State turf students.

■ “We have a superintendent, one assistant, one mechanic, one foreman and then the rest are primarily turf management students from Kansas State University’s golf management program,” says Gourlay, who’s watched his course undergo a major

Colbert Hills

bunker renovation the last several months. "We have a varying number of people because they are coming and going all the time."

■ Matt Gourlay has worked on the golf course since age 14 and moved from assistant superintendent to the head man at Colbert Hills about three years ago. He completed summer internships at highly rated Cypress Point, Oakland Hills and Los Angeles Country Club, before going to work full-time for his father.

■ "My Dad has helped me tremendously, pushed me to excel," Matt told the Trans after receiving his scholarship. "He helped me get to Kansas State and stressed the importance of being involved and giving back to the profession."

Kyle Hegland, Sand Hills Golf Club



■ While some Trans scholars have migrated to some of the most famous golf courses in the highly populated areas of the country, Michigan State graduate Kyle Hegland has gone a different route. Though he did spend time as an

intern and as an assistant at Austin Golf Club, in a thriving Texas city that's home to UT's Longhorns, Hegland has now moved on to Sand Hills Golf Club near Mullen, Neb.

■ "The course is about 14 miles outside Mullen. Mullen has about 500 people and I guess with the surrounding area, there are about 800 people – it's mostly cattle ranching," says Hegland, 31. "It's a 70-mile drive from here south to North Platte to go to a Wal-Mart or a fast food restaurant. In the winter I can make the 140-mile roundtrip without seeing another car – so that gives you an idea of the remoteness. But it's the kind of place that if your car breaks down you can walk up to a house and they'll take you right in and get things fixed up."

■ The former Trans scholar in MSU's highly regarded turf program says he knew how important serving his internship at a key golf destination could be to his career. That's why he went as an intern to Austin Golf Club in 1999 as the Bill Coore/Ben Crenshaw layout was under construction.

■ "I was fortunate enough to get to work with Doug Peterson, who I consider a legend in the superintendent profession," says Hegland, who grew up in southern Wisconsin. "I was fortunate enough to work with Coore and Crenshaw and all those guys that work for them...it was just a great learning experience."

■ In late 2006, Hegland had the opportunity to interview for the superintendent's position at Sand

Hills and the course's remote, rural location was a perfect fit.

■ "The people are just first class and welcomed us into the community from day one," he says. "We've just been fortunate to have such good people around us it made the transition that much easier."

■ Sand Hills, also designed by Coore and Crenshaw, opened in 1995. The noted architects carved 18 holes of championship golf in what Hegland calls a "naturalistic" layout. The greens and tees are seeded with Providence 1019 bentgrass and fairways include a blend of fine fescues. They have up to 15 percent Poa in them now, Hegland says.

■ Sand Hills is a modest club with a private membership. Seasonal golf operations typically begin in June and conclude October 1. Tournament play is kept at a bare minimum so Sand Hills members can enjoy their shortened golf season. On site accommodation at Sand Hills includes a full-service restaurant and lodging for approximately 55 guests.

■ Hegland says the area's dry conditions and low humidity offer some fine playing weather during the season, even with the wind. But the wind and the course's lack of snow cover during the off-season can be a problem. Hegland's staff is always involved in a rather labor-intensive watering process through the winter months.

■ "Our weather is our biggest asset and our biggest detriment," he says.

Sand Hills

Greens and tees at Sand Hills are covered during the winter to minimize wind desiccation and hay is placed in sand bunkers for protection from wind erosion. However, some bunkers are allowed to “move”, so the character of the course will change somewhat from year to year.

■ One of the course’s biggest assets is that it sits atop a deep portion of the Ogallala aquifer, the largest fresh water aquifer in the country. The water is so pure “You can drink our irrigation water” says Hegland, who manages a staff of just three full-timers and 17 seasonal employees. Hegland’s wife, Ashley, works with him at the course. The Heglands have a 1-year-old daughter, Riley.

Jeff Markow, Cypress Point Club

■ No one could dispute the beauty that is the Monterrey Peninsula. The last 26 years Jeff Markow has called it home as golf course superintendent at Cypress Point Club, an 18-hole, private facility in one of the country’s infamous golfing locales.

■ The GCSAA-certified superintendent got his start at the University of Minnesota, earning his biology degree in the early 1980s. From there the Trans scholar spent two years in the Penn State University Turfgrass Management Program.

■ “The Trans-Miss scholarship went a long way in helping achieve my educational goals as I had to work my way through college utilizing loans, scholarships and employment during school,” says Markow, 50. “It is always rewarding to be recognized for dedicated efforts and (the T-M program) and others like it have helped many students in their collegiate careers and for that we are extremely grateful.”

■ Markow says he was seasonal help at Minneapolis Golf Club during college days. From there he landed an assistant superintendent position at The Vintage Club in Indian Wells, Calif., home of the Senior Tour’s Vintage Invitational at the time.

■ In 1987, Markow moved on to Nicklaus’s PGA West as construction superintendent and moved up to director of golf course operations from 1989 to 1993. He served on the board of directors for the Hi-Lo Desert GCSA at the time.

In 1993, Markow moved to northern California as superintendent at Cypress Point Club.

■ There he manages a staff of 21 which includes two irrigation techs, a spray tech, a mechanic, assistant mechanic and two assistant superintendents. Cypress Point has Poa greens, tees, fairways and a mixture grasses in its roughs. The course’s 99 bunkers include fescue lips and were restored to historic photographs in 1998-2004, Markow adds.

■ “We have very limited clubhouse area and no other facilities,” Markow says. “We have a small driving range tee and range... approximately 12,000-ft. nursery and practice greens.”

■ The area’s moist, cool climate does pose some hurdles in golf course management...

■ “The very mild climate (has) almost year-round disease pressure from pink snow mold due to cool, moist conditions except for periods during spring and fall,” Markow says.

“We have a serious pest, *Anguina pacifica*, which is a stem gall nematode, fairly unique to the Central Coast area of California and has been very difficult to deal with. We continue testing products and practices to manage this pest.”

■ As a certified superintendent it is obvious Markow values education and speaks of its importance as prospective turf managers make plans to join the profession.

■ “A college education is mandatory these days as the complexities of the industry have changed dramatically,” he says. “Continuing education is equally important with new technology and the speed at which things are developed... It helps keep you current to ensure you are providing your employer the most up to date management plan that is available and suitable for your situation. Business and personnel management courses are very important as well, as you and your product are only as good as your people.”

Cypress Point



Ken Nice, Bandon Dunes Golf Resort

■ In the fall of 2008, Trans Four-Ball Championship competitors got a taste of links-style golf along the southern coast of Oregon at prestigious Bandon Dunes Golf Resort. They also got a first-hand look at the work of a former Trans scholar.

■ Bandon Dunes Director of Agronomy Ken Nice, boosted by the support he received from a Trans scholarship, is now in charge of four golf courses at one of the country's leading golf resorts. During the 2008 Four-Ball he had a chance to think about the impact the scholarship support had on his burgeoning career.

■ "(The scholarship) is extremely helpful when you're in college and barely scraping by," the 44-year-old Nice said as he recalled the Trans assistance he and wife of 17 years, Pam, received back in the mid-90s. "It was \$2,000 and by certain standards it's not a lot, but for my wife and me it was huge at the time. It was like, 'Okay, we've got a little breathing room.' We made sacrifices for (me) to go back and get a (turf) degree. It was very timely money and I'm still very appreciative of it."

■ After completing his turf degree at Oregon State and spending a couple years as an assistant superintendent at Astoria (Ore.) Golf and Country Club, Nice moved to Bandon Dunes about 11 years ago. He's been at the resort ever since and has seen it grow into one of the nation's leading golf destinations, offering true link golf at the Bandon Dunes, Pacific Dunes and Bandon Trails courses.

■ The common thread in turf for those three courses is the fine fescue/colonial bentgrass mix, with the emphasis on the fine fescue, he reports.

■ "It's a low-input turf type that requires less water, less fertilizer, less mowing than traditional United States turf types -- rye grass, bentgrass, Kentucky bluegrass. We are more common with Scotland and the UK with our turf types," Nice says.

■ The fescue allows for fewer changes in course preparation when it comes to getting greens ready for big championships like the Trans-Miss, the 2007 USGA's Mid-Amateur and the 2006 Curtis Cup. "We normally are able to mow greens every other day with rolling in between as opposed to daily mowing," Nice says. "That's one of the things with fine fescue, the slow growth. So, during the Mid-Am and the Curtis Cup, we just mowed every day, did not drop heights,

turned the water off, dried it out and we were able to achieve the green speeds we were after."

■ Bandon Dunes will roll out 18 more holes of championship golf in 2010 when the Old Macdonald course opens. The layout will include 100 percent fescue grass, according to Nice. It will also give resort guests another challenge and chance to experience "pure" golf on the Oregon coast.

■ "It's a marriage of natural elements -- sand, sea, wind and the golf architecture on the three, soon to be four, courses reflects that," Nice told the Trans. "It's a chance to experience true links golf that I don't believe you can elsewhere, other than the UK."



Bandon Dunes

James Moore, USGA agronomist



■ Texas A&M graduate James Moore has not used his Trans scholarship support to build a long career as a golf course superintendent. But make no mistake about the impact he's had on the profession and the game of golf the last quarter century.

■ It was in the mid-1980s, that Moore's boss at the United State Golf Association Jim Snow came to him for help as the association began work on developing a more defined set of standards for golf green construction. Moore, who said he's always had a fascination in course construction, ran with the project and has spent the last 25 years helping golf courses build the best possible putting surfaces. The impact of that work is immeasurable.

■ "One of the things I've been doing the last few years is speaking to turf programs all across the country via the Internet and Webcasting and it's always really fun for me to have somebody call me," says Moore, 58. "I had a guy the other day e-mail me from Dublin, Ireland, that saw one of the Webcasts. I get frequent calls from people that I made a Webcast to that are out there now as superintendents, who remember that and they'll come back to this office for help with a project."

■ After combining the Trans support he received back in the late 1970s with help he was receiving from the GI Bill as a member of the U.S. Air Force, Moore would earn his B.S. degree in Agronomy and Turfgrass Management from Texas A&M University. He'd taken classes at various schools from Maine to California to Louisiana as he bounded around with the Air Force serving as a radar bombing navigation technician and then a missile systems analyst.

■ He'd taken the position of superintendent for Briarcrest Country Club in Bryan, Texas, as he was finishing up his school work at A&M. Moore says he'd get the staff lined out for the day and then shuttle back and forth between class and the course. Later he took the superintendent position at Ridgewood Country Club in Waco, Texas. During that time he served as Texas Turfgrass Association president.

■ Currently, Moore is director of the USGA Green Section's Construction Education Program. His duties include the development of a wide range of educational materials including written, Internet and multimedia resources for construction information. He also presents educational seminars to various golf-related groups throughout the country.

■ Prior to assuming his new role as director of construction education, Moore served as director of the Mid-Continent Region of the Green Section for 12 years. During that time, he made more than 1000 Turfgrass Advisory Service visits to courses throughout the 10 states of the Mid-Continent. He also spoke extensively throughout the United States as well as in other countries and has written many articles for various publications.

■ While Moore was at A&M he met his wife Kay, who is the office coordinator for the Construction Education Program. They live in McGregor, Texas, and have four children, Allison, Travis, Andrew and Patrick. Travis is golf course superintendent at Twin Rivers Golf Club in Waco, Texas, and also a former Trans scholar.

■ "One of the things we're most proud of is our son Travis is now a golf course superintendent and he went to Texas A&M and has a degree in agronomy," Moore boasted. "...getting to watch him put his education to use...and he still asks Dad a question every once in a while."



Since the Trans-Miss Scholarship Fund granted a \$600 scholarship in 1953 to Colorado State University (then Colorado A&M), the Trans-Mississippi has become a national leader in assisting young men and women who are pursuing careers in turf management. More than \$90,000 in grants is provided annually to young men and women at 18 universities.

If you would like to receive more information on the scholarship program, send an e-mail to: golf@trans-miss.com.

USGA