

# THE STATE



January 2015

# of GOLF

# #1

## HA1L STATE:

**Bulldogs set a new standard for football expectations**

## Rod Perry

**Does it Again!**

**2-Time**

**National Award**

**Winner**

**Alumni**

**Spotlight:**

**Steve Atherton, PGA**

## MSU Wins 6th Heritage Cup



# PGA

Golf Management

# A Letter from the Director...

Happy New Year!

As we ring in the New Year, it is always nice to reflect back on the previous year – and what a year it was!

Shortly after sending out our inaugural issue of “The State of Golf”, we learned of Rod Perry earning his second consecutive PGA Player of Year! What a tremendous accomplishment; we are all proud of Rod’s success.

In the Spring, Mississippi State hosted Sam Houston State in our annual Heritage Cup matches. The teams enjoyed great camaraderie and competition during the 54-hole match play event played at the MSU Golf Course. Mississippi State won its 5th consecutive Cup with a match record, 17-5 victory.

During the summer, we hosted, in conjunction with the PGA of America, the PGA Golf Management Summer experience. Six students from around the country spent a week on the Mississippi State campus attending meetings, classes, touring campus, visiting with alumni/students, and playing golf. In short, getting a feel for being a PGA Golf Management student at Mississippi State. The participants had a wonderful time, leading several attendees to enroll in the PGA Golf Management program.

As a result of generous contributions from alumni and friends of the program, we were able to purchase a Trackman. The benefits of integrating the Trackman into our player development program surfaced quickly! We had a 50% pass rate for the fall PGA Playing Ability Test conducted at the MSU Golf Course. Students also enjoy competing with each other through the Trackman combine feature, with the leading score currently at 83.8. The Trackman is also proving to be a valuable tool in the classroom. Students are much more engaged in classes and discussions related to golf instruction. Thank you for those who supported this effort!!!

The Fall 2014 semester will go down in the record books at Mississippi State! The football team created a buzz not only on campus, but around the country. As I traveled around the country through the fall, I was constantly asked about the excitement on campus. It was truly an amazing time!

As promised, we hosted an Alumni Weekend you didn’t want to miss. It was so big, even ESPN’s College Game Day made their first trip to Starkville!! The Alumni event was hosted in conjunction with the MSU Women’s and Men’s Golf Teams and was sponsored by Ben Nelson Golf Cars. We had over 70 attendees from all of the programs! Unfortunately, the students once again defeated the alumni in our four-ball match play event played at the MSU Golf Course. A few weeks later, we hosted nearly 200 family members and friends for our annual Family Weekend. A great time was had by all as Mississippi State continued their winning ways on the football field. Amazing what a #1 team does for excitement on campus!

We once again hosted our Co-Op Interview Day in October. This year we moved the date closer to Alumni Weekend and added an Employer Panel discussion prior to the social event. We were excited to see an increase in employer attendance, with some employers attending for the first time. Nearly 200 interviews were conducted during Interview Day!





In the fall we welcomed an outstanding group of first year students. We are excited about their future and watching them develop into outstanding golf professionals. We also saw a great group of leaders graduate and transition to the next chapter of their lives, careers as PGA Professionals. As always, we are proud of their accomplishments and continued 100% job placement.

During the fall semester, we created a Leadership Development Team. The purpose of this team is to work with interested students to cultivate leadership skills, teach additional skill sets in the golf arena, and provide additional networking opportunities. The 8-person team was selected through an interview process and features diversity in age and interests in the golf business. We are excited about this opportunity and may be reaching out to you for your involvement.

In November, the 13th Annual PGA Jones Cup was played at the PGA Golf Club in Port Saint Lucie, FL. The facilities were in the best condition I can recall, and the tournament staff, led by our own Mark Tschetschot, conducted a fantastic event. While we finished 5th, I am very proud of our team and the way they represented Mississippi State University and all of you! Congratulations to Campbell University on their victory.

Also in November, Mississippi State University Senior Administration announced the re-assignment of the MSU Golf Course to the

College of Business and the PGA Golf Management program. On January 1, I assumed oversight of the Golf Course. We are in the process of hiring a Head Professional to oversee the daily operations. This re-assignment will provide a tremendous opportunity to utilize the Golf Course as a model operation and integrate the operations into our curriculum.

Finally, I would like to congratulate our newly elected PGA Officers - Derek, Paul, and Suzy. I am excited to see the success they, along with the Board of Directors and Staff, are able to achieve.

On behalf of the PGA Golf Management program, thank you for your continued support of the program. Without your support, we are not able to provide the students with so many outstanding experiences. Best wishes for a successful 2015! We look forward to seeing you soon.

HA1L STATE,

Jeff Adkerson, PGA Director

**C O N T E N T S**



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# A Letter from the Dean...

There is a lot of excitement on campus coming off a very exciting football season that saw MSU at the #1 spot for the first time in history! And, applications are up for the College of Business by more than 40%! The university's Infinite Impact campaign began with a very successful first year raising \$106 million. Philanthropy is essential to the future of our university and the College of Business. MSU has made an infinite impact on the lives of 33,706 College of Business alums representing 142 countries and all 50 states. If you would like to make a contribution to the capital campaign, please know that you would be making an impact on the PGA Golf Management program through a designated gift.

This summer the university's Entrepreneurship Center became an official College of Business center. With this change will also come a state-of-the-art facility on the first floor of McCool Hall. We will be breaking ground shortly after the first of the year on a facility that should put us on the map as one of the top E-centers in the country.



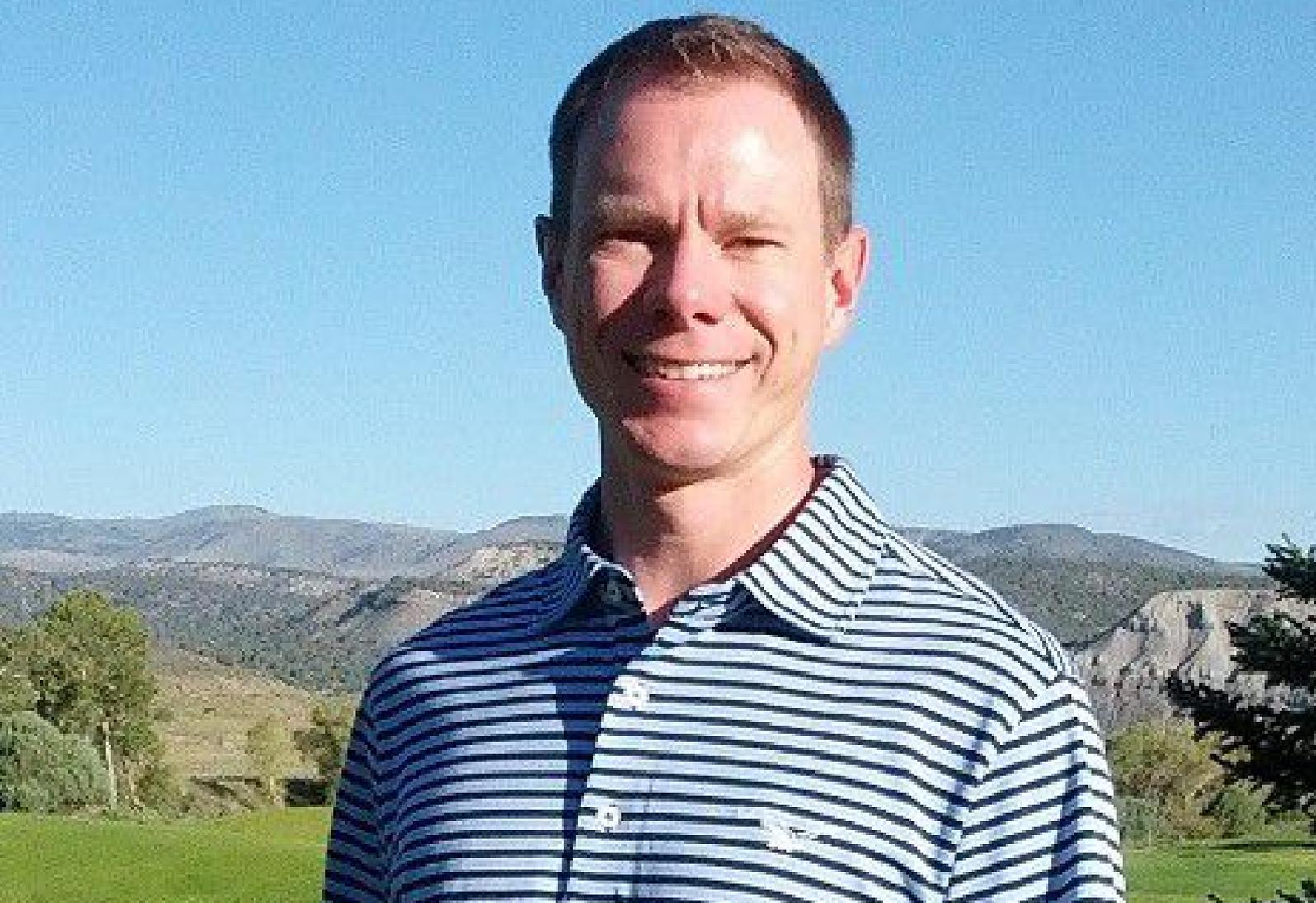
Another big addition to the College of Business occurs January 1, 2015, when the operations of the university golf course will begin reporting directly to the PGM program. This move will strengthen the role of the golf course as a teaching facility for our students.

However, the biggest and most exciting news is the year-long celebration of the 100th year anniversary of the College of Business beginning January, 2015. Your alma mater is not only the oldest College of Business in the state, but one of the oldest in the southeast. With the centennial anniversary we are introducing our new tagline We Mean Business. We have a host of activities planned for the year which you can read about on the centennial webpage [Wemeanbusiness.msstate.edu](http://Wemeanbusiness.msstate.edu) which will be live in early January. On this website you will have the opportunity to nominate the top 100 alumni in 100 years, as well as provide us with your own stories/memories that we can use in a centennial edition of Dividends. And during our year-long celebration we will also be recognizing 30 years of the PGM Golf Management program, as well as 50 years of the DBA/PhD program.

We always love having you back on campus and when you are here please stop by the Dean's office. I love to get to know our alums and find out where you are. I hope each and every one of you have a wonderful holiday season and a safe a prosperous new year.

Go Dawgs!

Dr. Sharon Oswald  
Dean, College of Business



# Alumni Spotlight:

## Steve Atherton

Interviewed by: Daniel Soehren, PGA

**Name:** Steve Atherton, PGA Master Professional

**Hometown:** Mendota, IL

**Years @ MSU:** 1995-1999

**Current Position:** Teaching Professional, Eagle Springs Golf Club - Wolcott, CO

**Q. When you think of your time at MSU, what comes to mind?**

A. When I look back on my time at MSU I think of venturing out on my own, away from my home and family in Illinois. I didn't realize it at the time but MSU was the vehicle that helped me become an independent young adult alongside the life-long friends that I made both at MSU and on the amazing internships that shaped my career in golf. I also think about the incredible college experience at MSU - Bulldogs football, baseball and basketball games, playing golf at the yard and club volleyball, the great

food in Starkvegas, and spending time at the amazing Sanderson Center after the first few years in the Tin Gym. MSU is a very special place - one that I will always have fond memories of.

**Q. What is the best piece of advice you have for current MSU PGM students?**

A. Seek to find your own truths. When something doesn't make sense ask "why?" and start looking for answers in places others haven't looked before. Most of the best lessons I've learned in my life came from a natural skepticism which made me question commonly held beliefs and search for my own answers. That line of thinking helped me learn more about teaching golf than any instruction book I've ever read.

**Q. Who or what was your inspiration to pursue a career in golf?**

A. Golf was my inspiration. I love the game, and when I found out that there was a major called Professional Golf Management that would allow me to go to school while working toward a career as a golf professional I was all in.

**Q. How/when did you decide to pursue instruction?**

A. The internships I did at WestLake CC, Olympia Fields CC and Merion GC along with my first Assistant Pro job at Sankaty Head GC helped me acquire many valuable skills and build a solid resume for a career as a head professional. However, those experiences also helped me realize that a life as a head professional might not be the right direction for me. My parents were both teachers, and I feel like teaching and helping others is in my blood, so after my first season at Sankaty Head I decided to join the crew at GolfTEC in Denver, CO and become a full-time teaching professional. It's been a great decision for my career and my lifestyle.

**Q. Where do you see yourself in 5 years? 10 years?**

A. In five years my main career goal is to have made GOLF Magazine and Golf Digest's lists of the best teachers and to have taught players on the PGA and/or LPGA Tours. Ten years down the road is more difficult for me to see. I like to see what opportunities arise which keeps me on my toes and allows me to continue to grow and adapt in my career.

**Q. Who would be your dream foursome and where would you play?**

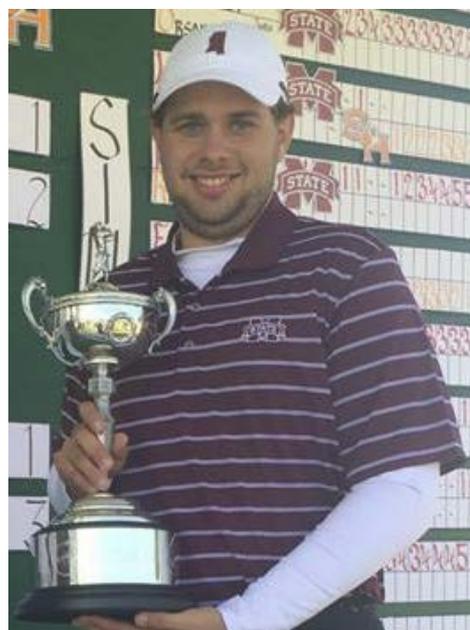
A. I love to laugh and have a good time, so my dream foursome would be Stephen Colbert, Shaq, and Arnold Palmer. Cypress Point is at the top of my list of courses I haven't played yet, so that's where we'd play.

**Q. Please list your awards and professional accomplishments.**

A. 2008 Colorado PGA Teacher of the Year, Golf Digest #3 ranked teacher in the state of Colorado, Golf Digest Best Young Teachers (Top 40 under 40) 2009-2014.



# Student Spotlight: Garrett Bernhardt



Garrett was a member of the 13th Annual PGA Jones Cup Team

**Name:** James "Garrett" Bernhardt

**Hometown:** Atlanta, Georgia

**Class:** Sophomore (Class of 2017)

**Why did you choose MSU (and PGA Golf Management)?**

*A: When I first visited Mississippi State, there was a great sense of comfort and it really felt like home to me. I chose the PGA Golf Management because golf was my passion and it provided me a chance to pursue a career in golf.*

**Tell us about your experiences on internship.**

*A: I have completed a summer internship at Wynlakes Golf & Country Club in Birmingham, Alabama. It is a 18-hole private facility. I chose Wynlakes because it was an opportunity to work for an accomplished PGA Master Professional, Brent Krause. Mississippi State sends interns there every year and I only heard great things. While I was there I got to experience many different parts of the golf operations, including retailing/merchandising, day-to-day member relations, tournament operations, and junior instruction. We also ran a good number of outings. It was a great experience.*

**Career Goal(s)/Dream Job?**

*A: I am not 100% certain what role I want in the golf industry, but as of right now I am interested in pursuing "non-green grass" opportunities. Things like working for a PGA Section tournament operation, a major club m*

*anufacturer sales representative, or even working in media relations for the PGA Tour.*

**Who is in your dream foursome and why?**

*A: I think I would like to play with Arnold Palmer (in his prime), Tiger Woods (2001 version), and Jack Nicklaus. Arnie has influenced the PGA Tour in a lot of ways and helped it become what we know it as today. I think Tiger is the greatest of all time, and Jack is one of the greatest competitors. I think that would be a great foursome.*

**Suppose you're stranded on an island, and only have 3 things. What are they?**

*A: I would bring my golf clubs, in case I get bored; a saw, to cut trees and build shelter; and a fishing pole, so I can eat.*

**What is your favorite food/restaurant?**

*A: My favorite restaurant is Bones in Atlanta and I would get a T-Bone steak with mashed potatoes and broccoli casserole. It's incredible, but maybe once-a-year type of meal. My favorite food, however, is the Burrito in a Bowl from Willy's Mexicana Grill also in Atlanta.*

**Favorite professional golf tournament and player?**

*A: My favorite professional tournament is the Masters. Augusta National is amazing and it has such a great history. My favorite player is Matt Kuchar because I really like his style of play and his constant positive attitude.*

**PAST CHAMPIONS**



2014



2013



2012



2011



2010



2009



2008



2007



2006



2005



2004



2003



2002



Team Member (L-R): Braxton Rainey (Sr), Andrew Porubiansky (Jr), Garrett Bernhardt (So), Blake Hatfield (Sr), Ryan Oliver (Sr)

## Campbell Wins 13th Annual PGA Jones Cup

Michael Abramowitz  
The PGA of America

**PORT ST. LUCIE, Fla.** – Campbell University of Buies Creek, North Carolina, came to the 13th PGA Jones Cup presented by Golf Advisor at PGA Golf Club on a mission – to become the first team to capture four titles.

The Camels led wire-to-wire in the 36-hole event, which features players from the 19 colleges and universities accredited by the PGA of America for aspiring PGA Professionals. Campbell built off of its four-stroke lead entering the final round, to win by 11 strokes over runner-up Florida State University.

Campbell and Mississippi State were both vying for a record fourth title, but Campbell prevailed, capitalizing on a game plan to play steady, controlled golf to set the mark.

“When you come to Campbell, we expect you to be a good player – it’s part of the Campbell pride and PGA pride,” said Ken Jones, Director of Campbell’s PGA Golf Management University Program. “We came down with a team that was set up to do this.

We thought it was great that we were paired together with Mississippi State and Coastal

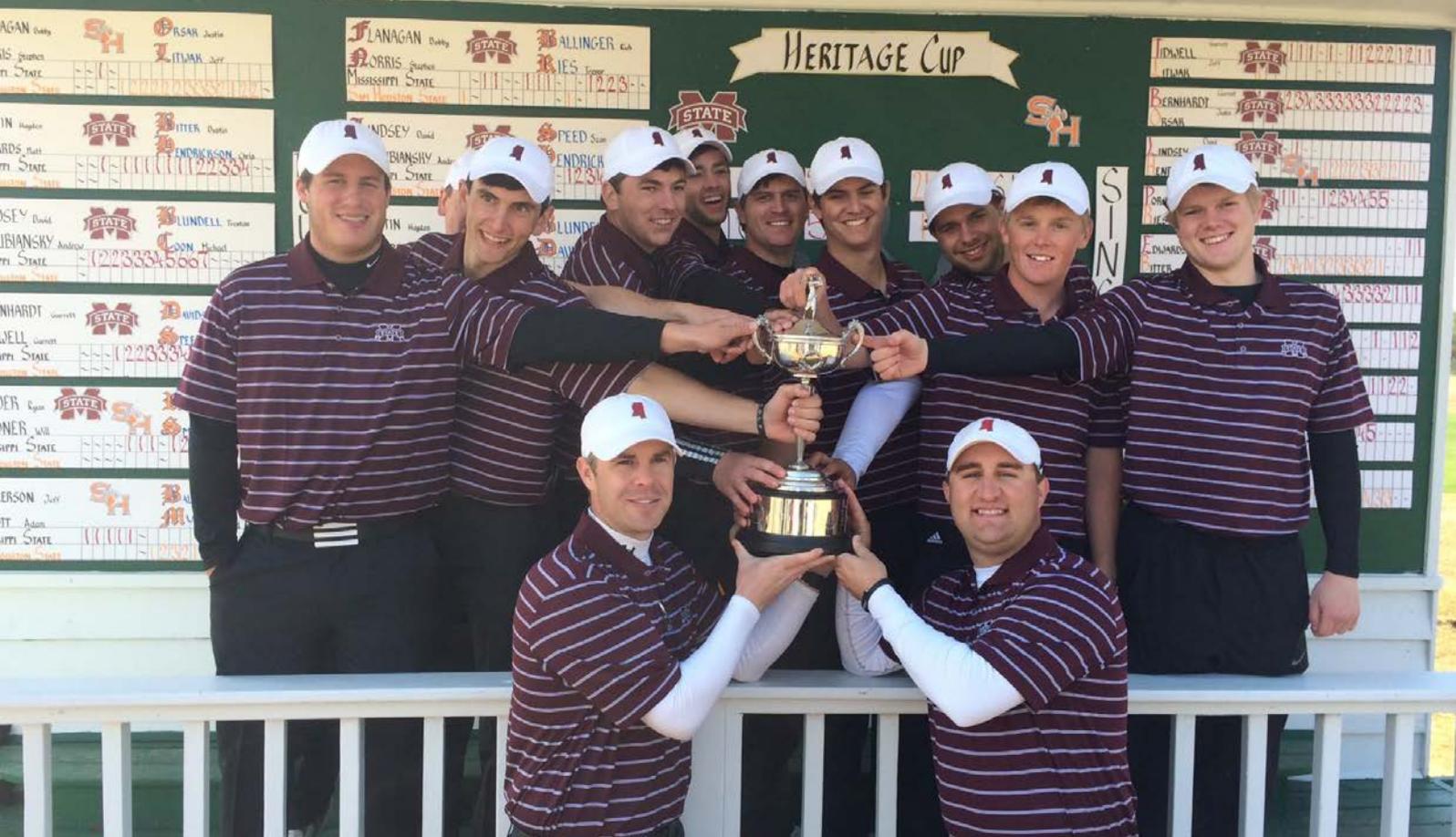
Carolina [in addition to FSU], as we had won eight PGA Jones Cups between the three of us going in. It feels really good to win.”

The PGA Jones Cup presented by Golf Advisor is named for the first PGA Golf Management University Program Director at Mississippi State, Dr. S. Roland Jones, who held the position from 1985 until his passing in 1997. The event provides a platform where participants can display professionalism, integrity, character and camaraderie; all characteristics Dr. Jones instilled in PGA Golf Management students.

### 14th PGA Jones Cup Leaderboard

<b>Campbell</b>	<b>303-303-606</b>
<b>Florida State</b>	<b>312-305-617</b>
<b>UM-ES</b>	<b>313-305-618</b>
<b>CCU</b>	<b>307-313-620 310</b>
<b>Miss State</b>	<b>-311-621</b>
<b>UCO</b>	<b>313-309-622 318</b>
<b>EKU</b>	<b>-310-628 315-31</b>
<b>NMSU</b>	<b>7-632</b>
<b>Nebraska</b>	<b>325-308-633</b>
<b>FGCU</b>	<b>321-314-635</b>
<b>SHSU</b>	<b>318-319-637</b>
<b>Clemson</b>	<b>322-317-639</b>
<b>Ferris State</b>	<b>322-318-640</b>
<b>UCCS</b>	<b>325-320-645</b>
<b>Idaho</b>	<b>327-319-646</b>
<b>UNLV</b>	<b>324-325-649</b>
<b>Penn State</b>	<b>326-327-653</b>
<b>NCSU</b>	<b>332-323-655</b>
<b>Methodist</b>	<b>335-329-664</b>





(L-R) Hayden Austin (So), Garrett Tidwell (Fr), Will Stoner (Sr), Andrew Porubiansky (Jr), Bobby Flanagan (Jr), David Lindsey (Sr), Stephen Norris (Sr), Garrett Bernhardt (So), Ryan Oliver (Sr), Matt Edwards (So)

# Bulldogs Win 5th Straight Heritage Cup

by Daniel Soehren, PGA

**STARKVILLE, MS** – Hosting its 4th Heritage Cup, Mississippi State boasted one of its strongest teams in the history of the event. Led by graduating Seniors, Stephen Norris and David Lindsey, the Bulldogs completed the most convincing victory in Heritage Cup history, beating Sam Houston State by a margin of 12 points, 17-5.

MSU was able to secure the first two points in the event and never looked back. The duo of David Lindsey and Andrew Porubiansky, who both claim Carrollton, GA as their hometown, recorded the first point with a win in Four Ball, and were undefeated on the weekend. They accounted for 3.5 (of 4 possible) of MSU's 17 total points.

Though leading 8.5 – 3.5 heading into the

Singles matches, the final outcome for MSU was murky until late on the back nine. Of the ten Singles matches, eight reached the 17th hole undecided. Several matches changed hands multiple times, but it was the Georgia boys that locked it up, as Lindsey won 3 of the last 4 holes to halve his match, and Porubiansky won 5&4 to bring MSU's total to 12 (11.5 needed to win the Cup).

This was State's 6th Heritage Cup victory, and have won the last 5 events. The matches were played much closer than the score-line reflected, and a tough 2015 Heritage Cup is expected in Hunstville, TX next spring.



Past Winners  
2014 (@MSU)



2013 (@SHSU)



2012 (@MSU)



2011 (@SHSU)



2010 (@MSU)



2009 (@SHSU)



2008 (@MSU)



# 2014 Heritage Cup Results

## Session 1: Four Ball (MSU 3.5 - SHSU 2.5)

Match			Result		
1	Jeff Litwak	Justin Orsak	1	Bobby Flanagan	Stephen Norris
2	Dustin Bitter	Chris Hendrickson	1	Hayden Austin	Matt Edwards
3	Trenton Blundell	Michael Coon	1	David Lindsey	Andrew Porubiansky
4	Tyler Davidson	Sean Speed	1	Garrett Bernhardt	Garrett Tidwell
5	Trevor Ries	Garrett Smith	1/2	Ryan Oliver	Will Stoner
6	Rich Ballinger	Brad Myers	1	Jeff Adkerson	Adam Scott

## Session 2: Foursomes (MSU 5 - SHSU 1)

Match			Result		
1	Rich Ballinger	Trevor Ries	1	Bobby Flanagan	Stephen Norris
2	Sean Speed	Chris Hendrickson	1	David Lindsey	Andrew Porubiansky
3	Trenton Blundell	Tyler Davidson	1	Hayden Austin	Matt Edwards
4	Dustin Bitter	Garrett Smith	1	Garrett Bernhardt	Garrett Tidwell
5	Michael Coon	Jeff Litwak	1	Ryan Oliver	Will Stoner
6	Brad Myers	Justin Orsak	1	Jeff Adkerson	Adam Scott

## Session 3: Singles (MSU 8.5 - SHSU 1.5)

Match		Result	
1	Jeff Litwak	1	Garrett Tidwell
2	Justin Orsak	1	Garrett Bernhardt
3	Chris Hendrickson	1/2	David Lindsey
4	Trevor Ries	1	Andrew Porubiansky
5	Dustin Bitter	1	Matt Edwards
6	Michael Coon	1	Hayden Austin
7	Tyler Davidson	1	Will Stoner
8	Sean Speed	1	Ryan Oliver
9	Trenton Blundell	1	Bobby Flanagan
10	Garrett Smith	1	Stephen Norris



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# 2014 PGA Golf Management Tournament Results

This year, the semester tournament schedules included three (3) 36-hole majors and 18-hole Sunday games for all PGA Golf Management students. Here are the Top 5 Men's finishers and Ladies champion in each of those events:



Miss E presents Sally Morgan (So) with the Elaine Cup

## SPRING

### Cowbell Classic, Feb. 1-2

#### Men's Division

Andrew Porubiansky 74-72 – 146 (+4)  
 Garrett Bernhardt 74-76 – 150 (+8)  
 Will Stoner 73-78 – 151 (+9)  
 Matt Edwards 74-78 – 152 (+10)  
 Tyler Slocum 77-76 – 453 (+11)

#### Ladies Division

Sally Morgan 86-83 -- 169 (+27)

### Sunday Game #1, Feb. 9

#### Men's Division

Matt Edwards 67 (-4)  
 Andrew Porubiansky 68 (-3)  
 Ryan Oliver 71 (E)  
 Garrett Tidwell 71 (E)  
 Stephen Norris 71 (E)

#### Ladies Division

Hope Arent 84 (+13)

### Bulldog Classic, Feb. 15-16

#### Men's Division

\*Stephen Norris 71-73 – 144 (+2)  
 Will Stoner 70-74 – 144 (+2)  
 Garrett Bernhardt 75-72 – 147 (+5)  
 Andrew Porubiansky 73-74 – 147 (+5)  
 Michael Zelazny 75-72 – 147 (+5)

#### Ladies Division

Sally Morgan 82-94 -- 176 (+34)

### Spring Championship, Mar. 1-2

#### Men's Division

Garrett Tidwell 69-69 – 138 (-4)  
 Ryan Oliver 72-72 – 144 (+2)  
 Hayden Austin 75-71 – 146 (+4)  
 Garrett Bernhardt 75-72 – 147 (+5)  
 Andrew Porubiansky 71-75 – 147 (+5)

#### Ladies Division

Elise Pope 89-89 -- 178 (+36)

## FALL

### Elaine Cup, Aug. 23-24

#### Men's Division

Andrew Porubiansky 67-71 – 138 (-4)  
 Shelby Tucci 69-72 – 141 (-1)  
 Blake Hatfield 72-70 – 142 (E)  
 Thomas Simpson 71-71 – 142 (E)  
 Dawson Kipniss 70-74 – 144 (+2)

#### Ladies Division

Sally Morgan 78-80 – 158 (+16)

### Sunday Game #1, Sept. 7

#### Men's Division

Garrett Bernhardt 69 (-2)  
 Blake Hatfield 70 (-1)  
 John-Michael Russell 71 (E)  
 Andrew Porubiansky 71 (E)  
 Garrett Powell 73 (+2)

#### Ladies Division

Sally Morgan 83 (+12)

### JWA Invitational, Sept. 13-14

#### Men's Division

Blake Hatfield 71-68 – 139 (-3)  
 Chris Meyer 73-72 – 145 (+3)  
 Braxton Rainey 72-74 – 146 (+4)  
 Ryan Oliver 72-75 – 147 (+5)  
 Nate Kitson 78-71 – 149 (+7)

#### Ladies Division

Haley Austin 77-71 – 150 (+8)

### Fall Championship, Oct. 18-19

#### Men's Division

Blake Hatfield 72-65 – 137 (-5)  
 Dawson Kipniss 70-69 – 139 (-3)  
 Garrett Bernhardt 71-69 – 140 (-2)  
 Braxton Rainey 68-72 – 140 (-2)  
 Will Stoner 72-69 – 141 (-1)

### Spring 2015 Schedule

**1/31 - 2/1**  
 Cowbell Classic  
 9:00am Tee Times

**2/14 - 2/15**  
 Bulldog Classic  
 9:00am Tee Times

**2/28 - 3/1**  
 Spring Championship  
 9:00am Tee Times

**3/20 - 3/22**  
 Heritage Cup  
 @ SHSU



Click the icon to see the full results and follow all PGA Golf Management tournaments!

# Player Development Program Takes Hold

By: Adam Scott, PGA

The ability to play and teach the game of golf are absolutely essential to success as a PGA Golf Professional. A few years ago, the PGA Golf Management staff asked ourselves one simple question, "Are we doing as much as possible to help students get better at the game both before and after the PAT?". The staff has always worked very closely with the students while offering a number of tournament opportunities, but we felt we could do more.

So in the summer of 2013, we tested a new Player Development Program in an effort to help current students pass the PGA of America's Playing Ability Test (PAT) and challenge the program's better players to continue to work on their game. Through our observation, we determined all of the students possessed a certain level of ability to swing the golf club, but lack the understanding of how to practice and play the game. The question arose, how do we get the students to play and practice the correct way?

Starting in the Fall of 2013, the new Player Development Program was unveiled and all of the students in the program who had not passed the PAT were required to participate along with and other students who wanted to improve. The program was simple but effective; each student completed four assigned drills per week that addressed putting, short game, full swing, and an on-course component. Each drill was designed to challenge the student and to keep score. Students were required to submit their drill scores and they were posted in the PGA Golf Management Office. That way, each student in the program could see how he/she stacked up against the other students in the program. "This really taught me how to practice effectively," said Senior Braxton Rainey, "I now focus each time I practice to achieve a score rather than hit balls with no goal."

The competitive nature of each student began to arise as they began to compete during practice!



Since that semester, the PAT passing rate per event has continued to rise. Currently, 80% of the students have passed the PAT while the average number of attempts to pass is 2. We have continued to modify the program with new drills, but the premise remains the same: the more you can get your students to practice deliberately and focus on achieving a goal, the faster he/she will improve.

Each Friday afternoon at the MSU Golf Course, we spend time on the short game areas and practice tee, providing individual instruction to students who seek our help. High-speed video and our Trackman unit have made a great difference in helping students understand cause and effect in the golf swing and ball flight.

Finally, each student is required to achieve a score of 83 or below in at least one of the semester tournament rounds. Since this policy was enacted, the PGA Golf Management tournaments have almost doubled in participation while overall scoring averages have dropped below 80. With over 90 students on campus and 650 tournament rounds played, this past fall's overall scoring average for the entire program was 79.5.

This is an immense accomplishment for the program and we expect that number to continue to improve as the students get better and better at the game. We are proud of the efforts put forth by the students and they will be better PGA Professionals due to their playing ability.



# 2014 - 2015 Graduating Seniors

## Front Row (L - R)

### Scott Foster

1st Assistant Professional  
Highland Park Golf Course  
Birmingham, AL

### Blake Hatfield

Assistant Professional  
Green Island Country Club  
Columbus, GA

### Derek Montecalvo

1st Assistant Professional  
Willow Point G & CC  
Alexander City, AL

### Lindsey Crowder

Nashville, TN

### Braxton Rainey (May)

Junior Assistant Professional  
Olympia Fields Country Club  
Olympia Fields, IL

### Taylor Pettit

Assistant Professional  
Olympia Fields Country Club  
Olympia Fields, IL

## Back Row (L - R)

### William Chadick

Assistant Professional  
Peninsula Golf & Racq. Club  
Gulf Shores, AL

### Kyle Carpenter (May)

Assistant Professional  
Country Club of Jackson  
Jackson, MS

### Kelly Cobb

Assistant Professional  
Fox Chapel Golf Club  
Pittsburgh, PA

### Thomas Fowler

Assistant Professional  
Marriot's Shadow Ridge  
Palm Desert, CA

### Ryan Rodecker

Teaching Professional  
GolfTEC Houston  
Houston, TX

## Not Pictured

### Nicholas Harris

Assistant Golf Professional  
Oak Tree National  
Edmond, OK

# FAMILY Weekend

## A Success Yet Again

By: Daniel Soehren, PGA

**STARKVILLE, MS** - The 2014 installment of the PGA Golf Management's Family Weekend brought great weather, food and football together for a fantastic time of community. This year the event took place over MSU's Homecoming, November 7-9th, as the Bulldogs took on the Skyhawks of UT-Martin. Approximately 250 grandparents, parents, siblings, and friends joined in the weekend's festivities.

Friday night played host to the PGM Club's annual silent auction. The marquee item up for bidding was an authentic Mississippi State football helmet (courtesy of Dowdle Sports), signed by Head Coach, Dan Mullen. Special Events Coordinator Sally Morgan, and President Braxton Rainey did a phenomenal job organizing the evening and acquiring the items to benefit the PGA Golf Management Club. Approximately \$2,100 was raised from the silent auction.

Blake Hatfield, graduating senior from Booneville, MS, was awarded his third consecutive Player of the Semester title. He also qualified for his third PGA Jones Cup Team this fall and has played on 3 Heritage Cup Teams. Congratulations on your accomplishments, Blake!

A new tradition was also started, as each family received a gift according to the class to which their student belonged. Freshman parents received a MSU PGA Golf Management logo cowbell, Sophomore parents received a MSU PGA Golf Management logo maroon blanket, Senior parents received a set of laser-etched MSU PGA Golf Management drinking glasses, and fifth year senior parents received a MSU PGA Golf Management picture frame with a

photo with their student. This was a great success and encourages families to return each year to receive a different gift!

a tent just outside of Davis Wade Stadium. Families were able to enjoy great food and the awesome atmosphere of The Junction on game day. The weekend concluded with a convincing Bulldog victory over the Skyhawks, 45-16, the perfect capstone to a fun event!

On behalf of all PGA Golf Management students and staff, we would like to thank all of the family members and friends that were able to attend this year! We appreciate your time, effort and support of the Program. We hope to see you all again at next year's Family Weekend!

**HAIL STATE!!**





*Rod Perry, who owns two PGA Professional Player of the Year awards, is the only left-hander to win a PGA Professional National Championship and a PGA Professional Player of the Year Award.*

## **Perry takes Back-to-Back PGA Professional Player Award**

*Bob Denney  
The PGA of America*

**PALM BEACH GARDENS, Fla.** – Reigning National Champion Rod Perry of Port Orange, Fla., put the finishing touches on a memorable 2013 season Friday evening by capturing his second consecutive PGA Professional Player of the Year award.

Perry, 40, the PGA head professional at Crane Lakes Golf and Country Club in Port Orange, secured the honor by finishing tied for third in the final PGA Tournament Series event of the season at PGA Golf Club in Port St. Lucie, Fla. Perry is the lone left-handed player and sole PGA Golf Management University graduate to win a PGA Professional National Championship and a PGA Professional Player of the Year Award.

Perry won his first National Championship in

in Sunriver, Ore., and then added a seventh North Florida PGA Section Championship and seventh Section Player of the Year title. Over the past two months in the six-event PGA Tournament Series, he collected four top-10 finishes and placed fourth on the money list.

Perry earned 1,191.5 overall points to edge former National Champion Bob Sowards of Dublin, Ohio, a three-time PGA Professional Player of the Year who had 1,107.5 points. Jeff Sorenson of Blaine, Minn., was next at 771.25, followed by David Muttitt of Albuquerque, N.M., with 771, and Kelly Mitchum of Southern Pines, N.C., with 757.5.

Perry is the second North Florida PGA member (following Brett Upper of Clearwater, Fla., in 1990) to garner a PGA Professional Player of the Year, an award which began in 1984. Perry will be honored June 20, 2014, in Myrtle Beach, S.C., at the 47th PGA Professional National Championship presented by Club Car, Mercedes-Benz USA and OMEGA. The 2013 Senior PGA Professional Player of the Year also will be honored at that time, but the recipient will be determined April 18, 2014, following the conclusion of the postponed Southworth Senior PGA Professional National Championship.

Perry said the comfort of a support staff during his absence from Crane Lakes Golf and Country Club enabled him to concentrate on the PGA Tournament Series as well as other national events throughout the season.

"Last year, it was all new to me being in position to win this award," said Perry. "This year, I was a little more knowledgeable about the system. When Bob Sowards came out of the gate this year and won the PGA Stroke and Match Play titles, I knew that it was going to be difficult to repeat. Thankfully, after winning my Section Championship, I had momentum. Bob Sowards is an excellent player, and it is never easy to keep him at bay in any event.

"It is a great situation to be in to have the support of your club's owners - the Becks Corporation - and that of Director of Business Development Craig Wells along with our members and staff. Their support allowed me the chance to go out and contend for this award. The members take a very wholehearted interest in not only my playing but my whole life."

The final Player of the Year standings were determined based on a point system involving national and PGA Section competitions from Jan. 1 through Dec. 20, 2013.

Perry garnered 500 points for winning the PGA Professional National Championship, 300 for



## 2013 PGA Professional Player of the Year Final Standings

<b><u>PLAYER</u></b>	<b><u>POINTS</u></b>
<b>1. Rod Perry</b>	<b>1191.50</b>
<b>2. Bob Sowards</b>	<b>1107.50</b>
<b>3. Jeff Sorenson</b>	<b>771.25</b>
<b>4. David Muttit</b>	<b>771.00</b>
<b>5. Kelly Mitchum</b>	<b>757.50</b>
<b>6. Mike Small</b>	<b>673.75</b>
<b>7. Chip Sullivan</b>	<b>666.75</b>
<b>8. Rob Moss</b>	<b>657.50</b>
<b>9. Rob Labritz</b>	<b>645.00</b>
<b>10. Brian Cairns</b>	<b>641.75</b>

the North Florida PGA Section Player of the Year, 100 additional points for winning the Section Championship; 149 for making the cut in the Arnold Palmer Invitational and 50 more for competing in the Tampa Bay Championship. He rounded out his season by earning 70 points for finishing fourth on the PGA Tournament Series money list and 22.5 for making the cut in the PGA Stroke Play Championship.

"Finishing runner-up for three straight years is not the way you want to end up, but give Rod the credit for a fantastic year," said Sowards, the 2004 PGA Professional National Champion and the 2003-05 PGA Professional Player of the Year. "He's a great guy and we have played a lot together, and were each members of the PGA Cup Team this year. It's always my goal to win this award."



# PGA™

# PGA SECTION AWARD WINNERS

by Daniel Soehren, PGA

Each year, numerous graduates make great contributions to their respective facility, community, and PGA Section. This past year, there were 6 alumni to earn the nod for one of these distinguished awards.

In honor of the accomplishments of our alumni, the PGA Golf Management staff designed PGA Section Awards boards that are displayed in the GolfTEC-Hansberger Simulator Room to recognize our alumni who have won a Section Award. An individual board was hung in honor of Rod Perry, PGA, and his PGA Professional Player of the Year Award in 2012 and another will be hung for his 2013 national award. These boards serve not only as recognition, but also as inspiration for current students to work hard and strive to be the best.

## Golf Professional of the Year

**Chris Jester**  
Old Waverly GC  
Gulf States Section

**Casey Smith\***  
NorthRiver Yacht  
Dixie Section

## Bill Strausbaugh

**Brad Morrow**  
Hunting Creek CC  
Kentucky Section

## Merchandiser of the Year

**PUBLIC**  
**Bela Nagy**  
Sandridge GC  
South Florida Section

**Evan Godfrey**  
Highland Park GC  
Dixie Section

**PRIVATE**  
**Jason Prenderghast**  
Country Club of Jackson  
Gulf States Section

**Keith Penke**  
Germantown Country Club  
Tennessee Section

## Player Development Award

**Doug Strawbridge**  
GolfTEC - Upper Kirby  
Southern Texas Section

## Youth Player Development Award

**Bela Nagy**  
Sandridge GC  
South Florida Section

## Teacher of the Year

**Kevin Kihslinger**  
GolfTEC - Mequon  
Wisconsin Section

*Congratulations to each of you, and we encourage you to continue to pave the way for current and future PGA Professionals!*

# ALUMNI UPDATES

## New Positions

**Bela Nagy, PGA**  
Director of Golf  
Sandridge Golf Club  
Vero Beach, FL

**Chad Parker, PGA**  
GM/COO & Director of Golf  
East Lake Golf Club  
Atlanta, GA

**Mark Ledom, PGA**  
Assistant Golf Professional  
Jupiter Hills Club  
Tequesta, FL

**Doug Wert, PGA**  
Director of Golf  
Cider Ridge Golf Club  
Oxford, AL

**Eric Sukhenko, PGA**  
Co-owner & Teaching Professional  
GolfTEC Rochester  
Rochester, NY

**Steven DeBoer, PGA**  
Teaching Professional  
GolfTEC Birmingham  
Birmingham, AL

**Matt Walter, PGA**  
Director of Player Development  
Westhaven Golf Club  
Franklin, TN

**Mike McDonald, PGA**  
Campus Director  
Golf Academy of America - Dallas  
Farmers Branch, TX

**Dean Tennille, PGA**  
Head Golf Professional  
Windyke Country Club  
Germantown, TN

**David Lindsey, PGA**  
Assistant Professional  
Squire Creek Country Club  
Choudrant, LA

**Grant Landry, PGA**  
Assistant Golf Professional  
Wichita Country Club  
Wichita, KS

**Joey Schneider, PGA**  
Assistant Golf Professional  
Trump National Golf Club  
Charlotte, NC

**Trey Adams, PGA**  
Assistant Golf Professional  
MSU Golf Course  
Starkville, MS

## Certified Professional

**Steven DeBoer, PGA**  
Teaching Professional  
GolfTEC Birmingham  
Birmingham, AL

**Travis Zimmer, PGA**  
Teaching Professional  
GolfTEC Cool Springs  
Franklin, TN

*Congratulations and  
Best of Luck  
to all of you in your new  
endeavors!!*





DECEMBER 31<sup>ST</sup> - 8 PM. ET

**MIAMI  
BOUND!**



## **MSU Falls to GA TECH in ORANGE BOWL**

**STARKVILLE, Miss.** – After compiling the best regular season in Mississippi State football history, the seventh-ranked Bulldogs fell to No. 12 Georgia Tech, 49-34 in the 2014 Capital One Orange Bowl on Wednesday, Dec. 31 at Sun Life Stadium in Sun Gardens, Fla.

MSU (10-3, 6-2 SEC) is made its school-record fifth straight bowl appearance and 18th overall appearance dating back to 1937. The Bulldogs played in their third Orange Bowl and first since Jan. 1, 1941. That year, MSU topped Georgetown, 14-7. MSU's first-ever bowl appearance was also in the Orange Bowl against Duquesne in 1937.

Led by National Player of the Year candidate quarterback Dak Prescott, the Bulldogs amassed 10 regular season wins for the first time in program history and will head to Miami with its highest ranking ever to enter a bowl game. Its previous high was No. 9 when entering the 1941 Orange Bowl.

Georgia Tech (11-3, 6-2 ACC) boasted one of

the nation's top rushing offenses. Quarterback Justin Thomas lead a spread option attack that ranked third in the nation in rushing yards (333.6 ypg). Thomas ranked fourth nationally amongst quarterbacks with 965 rushing yards, just ahead of Prescott's 939.

The two teams will faced off for the fifth time and first since 2009 in Mullen's first season. The then 25th-ranked Yellow Jackets claimed a 42-31 win in Starkville on Oct. 3, 2009. Georgia Tech leads the all-time series 5-0.

This was not the Bulldogs of two years ago, which following a 7-0 start, were derailed entirely. This season was different. Although losing tow tough games down the stretch, MSU set a new standard for football expectations in Starkville, having reached No. 1 for the first time in school history.

Standout players running back Josh Robinson and linebacker Bernardrick McKinney have declared intentions to enter the 2015 NFL Draft. In total, 15 players from this past season will be graduating, leaving some significant holes to fill for MSU's currently 11th-ranked 2015 recruiting class, according ESPN.

Mississippi State will look to lean on its core of quarterback, Dak Prescott and wide receiver De'Runnya Wilson in 2015.

# Mississippi State Athletics Unveils Dudy Noble Field Master Plan

**STARKVILLE, Miss.** – Mississippi State Athletics unveiled the Dudy Noble Field Master Plan on Tuesday, an ambitious \$40 million facility project that aims to remake the Bulldogs' home ballpark into the finest in college baseball.

The Dudy Noble Field Master Plan calls for a new double-tiered grandstand with chairback seating, an elevated concourse that encircles the playing field and allows a constant view of the game action, welcoming entry plazas, spacious restrooms, concessions, a kids' play area, berm seating, upgraded field lighting, HD video board, digital ribbon signage, team areas (clubhouse, training room, equipment room, coaches' offices, etc.) and dramatically improved aesthetics.

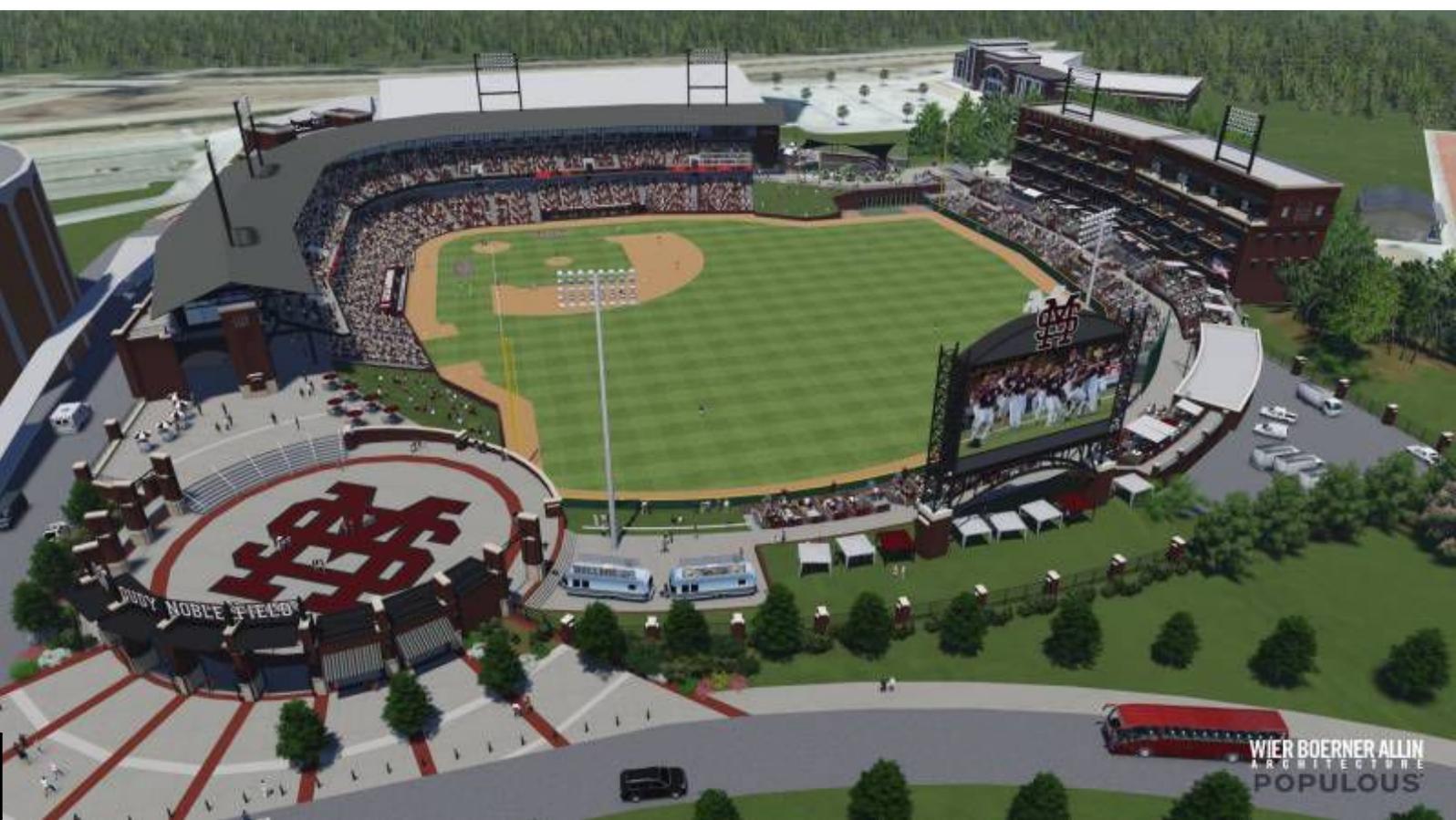
"Mississippi State Baseball first set the standard for making college baseball games a happening, becoming one of the first schools to invest in a modern facility nearly 30 years ago," said MSU Director of Athletics Scott Stricklin. "The new Dudy Noble Field Master Plan will provide our players, coaches and fans the best ballpark in all of college baseball."

"This is a monumental day for our baseball program, and something every Bulldog player and fan deserves," said MSU head baseball coach John Cohen. "As a former player and now coach, I know the greatest fans in college baseball will take action to ensure our players and coaching staff have the necessary amenities and resources to recruit and compete at the highest level."

Capacity is planned to allow MSU to continue to host the largest crowds in college baseball. The new grandstand will hold more fans than the current grandstand, berm seating down each line will allow for greater general admission seating and the outfield should accommodate the same number of fans, if not more. Additionally, there will be excellent standing room views of the field surrounding the concourse that the current facility does not provide.

Mississippi State currently owns the top 10 on-campus crowds in NCAA baseball history. On April 12, 2014, Bulldog fans shattered the single-game NCAA on-campus attendance record as 15,586 fans witnessed a 6-5 MSU victory against in-state rival Ole Miss.

[Click HERE for more images](#)



***If you would like to make a contribution to the MSU PGA Golf Management program, click on the MSU Foundation icon below:***



***\*\*Please designate your contribution for the PGA Golf Management Program\*\****

## **PGA Golf Management Staff**



Jeff Adkerson, PGA  
Director  
PGA Golf Management



Adam Scott, PGA  
Assistant Director  
PGA Golf Management



Daniel Soehren, PGA  
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