

# THE STATES

January 2017

OF GOLF



**Adam  
Scott  
bids  
Farewell  
p. 19**

**100th  
PGA  
Annual  
Meeting  
p. 8**



**MISSISSIPPI STATE  
UNIVERSITY**



**PGA**  
Golf Management

# A Letter from the Director...

In 2015 we celebrated the College of Business centennial, and in 2016 we celebrated the PGA of America centennial! We couldn't have had a better year to celebrate the PGA centennial either, with golf returning to the Olympics and the United States Ryder Cup team winning in dramatic fashion at Hazeltine Golf Club! No doubt, 2016 was a year to remember, not only in golf, but for the MSU PGA Golf Management program as well.

As we look back over the year, the MSU PGA Golf Management program also had a great year! During the PGA Merchandise Show, students were able to provide the Folds of Honor Foundation with a \$1,500 check to support the families of our fallen military personnel. It was truly a great moment seeing the students present this check to Tony Biata, and to see the excitement on their faces as Tony shared with them the impact they will have on the families of our country's heroes.



Our annual Heritage Cup matches vs Sam Houston State University was conducted in early April, with Mississippi State winning its record setting seventh match, 14.5-7.5. The competition was highly contested, as it is every year, yet played with the spirit one would expect of future professionals. The

teams enjoyed the weekend and growing new networks, forming friendships that will last many years to come.

We hosted several events on campus over the fall semester, most notably our annual family weekend and our bi-annual alumni weekend in conjunction with the Ben Nelson World of Golf tailgate. Our family weekend was once again well attended with 200+ friends and family on campus for the festivities. We hosted a welcome reception on that Friday evening, giving families a chance to visit and bid on items in our silent auction. This year we added a live auction item - a chance to bid on me being a "caddy" for the lucky winner. It was safe to say a good time was had by all, especially our auctioneer, Adam Scott! Our alumni weekend was also well attended, with some 70 players for the golf tournament. We had even more graduates attend the tailgate and football game. Look for more information on the 2018 alumni weekend later this year.

The PGA of America hosted the PGA Jones Cup once again at the PGA Golf Club in Port Saint Lucie, FL. Students from all 19 University programs gathered for this national championship conducted by our very own, Mark Tschetschot. Mark and the PGA Tournament staff provide the participants with an experience only found on Tour! It is truly special to see the legacy of Dr. Jones celebrated in this fashion. Thank you to the PGA of America for hosting this special event!

In November, Sally Morgan, a senior from Georgia, was selected to attend the PGA Annual Meeting as the Mississippi State student representative. Sally was selected through a rigorous interview process, with 3 most deserving finalists in the running for attending the meeting. The 2016 meeting

was held in New York, New York and centered around the celebration of our centennial. Sally attended a number of events and functions and returned from the meeting more inspired than ever before. She has indicated that her most memorable experiences were attending the Special Awards program and the networking opportunities presented throughout the week.

In December, we announced the departure of Adam Scott, as he has accepted the Director position for the UCCS PGA Golf Management program. We sent Adam off in style the other night with a "roasting" followed by some heartfelt comments from students and staff. We will miss Adam for sure, but am so excited Adam has this opportunity and wish him much success in this new endeavor. Good Luck, Adam!

I would be remiss if I failed to mention the success our graduates continue to have in their respective career paths. We continue to have a number of graduates complete requirements for PGA Certification and for Section and Chapter award recognitions. Keep up the great work and be sure to let us know of your accomplishments!

Finally, as we look forward to what 2017 holds, we are excited for the many opportunities presented in golf. We couldn't be more proud of what our students are doing in the classroom, on the golf course, and in their PGA work, as well as what each of our graduates are doing in their careers! We truly appreciate all you do for the Mississippi State PGA Golf



Management program, through your time, financial assistance, and guidance of our students. Thank you!

Be a Bulldog,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeff W. Adkerson". The signature is fluid and cursive.

**Jeff Adkerson, PGA  
Director**

***If you would like to make a contribution to the PGA Golf Management Program, please click on this link!***

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

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# A Letter from the Dean...

This has been another great year for the College of Business. The College enrollment grew by 24 percent this past fall, compared to 4 percent for the university, and more than any other college on campus. Total enrollment for the College of Business is over 2700, the highest in recent history.

Last spring, we officially opened the Center for Entrepreneurship and Outreach (CEO) in a newly remodeled space on the first floor of McCool. The center is "home base" for our 130 student-run businesses. The build out of the center was made possible through generous gifts from our donors and a grant from the Appalachian Regional Authority. Currently we are in the planning stages for a Phase 2 of the CEO-- a cutting edge business behavioral research lab to be housed on the second floor of McCool. In addition to providing space for students and faculty to conduct applied research, the lab will be available for intensive market testing and branding of products developed by our budding entrepreneurs.

Last year the Richard C. Adkerson School of Accountancy was ranked third in the nation for both undergraduate and graduate accounting programs (with 15 or fewer faculty) by the Commerce Clearing House *Public Accounting Report* and among the nation's best for

programs of any size. And, we just learned our Distance MBA program is ranked 18th, up from 25th last year, by US News & World Reports.

Our PGA Golf Management program continues to be one of the best in the country. And, as you know, the University Golf Course is now part of the College. Alumni tell me all the time that the Golf Course never looked so good— thanks to Mike Hammond and Pat Sneed.

In February, 2017, the College will undergo a re-accreditation visit by the AACSB. Always of interest to the peer review team is the PGA Golf Management Program which is always a bragging point for us.

At the university level, the Infinite Impact campaign is now a billion dollar campaign. 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.

Finally it is with both sadness and pride that we say goodbye to Adam Scott. Adam has been such an integral part of the success of the PGM program and he will be sorely missed. But, speaking on behalf of the entire College, we are extremely proud to see him become the new director of the PGA Golf Management Program at UCCS. Adam has definitely put his mark on our program and we are better for it.

Next time you are in town, please stop by the Dean's office. I love to get to know our alums and find out where you are.



Dr. Sharon Oswald  
Dean, College of Business





Sally Morgan (Sr.), posing with the PGA of America's Championship trophies at PGA Annual Meeting in NYC

# 100th Annual PGA Meeting Leadership Session

By: Sally Morgan

In the beginning of November, I had the privilege of attending the 100th PGA Annual Meeting in New York, New York, as the Mississippi State University student representative. Attending the PGA Annual meeting is an experience that not much else could replace, especially given it was the centennial celebration in New York City. Every year, one student from each PGM University attends the annual meeting under the PGA Golf Management Leadership Conference. While the meeting provides for valuable personal growth, the ideas taken from other University students and PGA Professionals provides an opportunity to explore ideas and make improvements within our own program.

There were many memorable experiences

throughout the week, but a couple really stand out and were noteworthy. One was the National Awards dinner. On this evening, the winners of the various PGA of America awards, such as the Horton Smith award, Herb Graffis award, Teacher of the Year, PGA Professional of the Year, etc., were recognized and honored for their outstanding contributions in their respective area. Seeing the joy and passion in each of the PGA Professional's faces that had won was so inspiring! It also created motivation to personally work towards accomplishments like that in the future.

The keynote speaker this year was Mr. Jack Nicklaus. His discussion with us made everyone feel like we were personally talking with him, rather than to a group of people, and he didn't fail in making every-

-one in the room laugh. Hearing his experiences with the PGA of America through the years was special. He spent a great deal of time providing a sense of the impact PGA Professionals have made in his life, both on and off the course. He also talked about the legend, and close friend, Arnold Palmer. Mr. Palmer's passing occurring during the 100th year of the PGA of America was difficult for many but inspiring to have experienced his impact on the golf world.

Another very memorable experience that was special to not only me, but Mississippi State University, occurred during the PGA Past Presidents forum. Mr. Mickey Powell, PGA, Past President of the PGA of America, shared with the delegation his story of visiting Mississippi State and his approval of the establishment of the PGA Golf Management Program at the university. Following the Past President forum, I was able to visit with Mr. Powell and share some of my experiences as a student at Mississippi State. It was very special to meet the person who allowed us all to begin pursuit of our career aspirations as PGA Professionals at Mississippi State University.



(From left) Jeff Adkerson, PGA, Mr. Mickey Powell, and Sally Morgan at the 100th Annual PGA Meeting in NYC



Sally Morgan and Gulf States PGA representatives with newly-elected PGA President, Mr. Paul Levy, PGA

The whole experience of the Centennial PGA Annual Meeting has inspired me more than most words can describe. It has inspired me to work even harder to become an important asset of the PGA Professional network, as I know it has done for others as well. Meeting current professionals and seeing their passion for the golf industry and genuine desire to make it the best it can be pushes me to do as much as I can to help fellow PGA members and grow the game of golf as much as we can. It was definitely an honor to attend the meeting and I am excited to take the inspirational moments, share these and inspire others, and help grow the PGA of America in any way I can.

***Click here to see more photos from the PGA of America's Centennial Meeting!***

# Alumni Spotlight: Jon Crane

Interviewed by: Daniel Soehren, PGA

## Q. What is your fondest memory from your time at Mississippi State?

Spending evenings at various establishments in the Cotton District after an afternoon of playing golf at the State course.

## Q. When and how did you identify what career path in the golf industry you were passionate about?

I thought that I wanted to pursue the private club business when I started at State. After an incredible internship experience at Long Cove Club on Hilton Head, I knew that was the direction I wanted to go.

## Q. What aspect of being Director of Golf at The Club at Porto Cima do you enjoy most?

I really enjoy the diversity of the job. I am fortunate to be able to fill many rolls within the club which keeps things interesting day to day.

## Q. What is the coolest experience that your career in golf has provided you?

The coolest experiences that I have had are the number of golf trips that I have been able to take with my membership. I have had the opportunity to travel to many great locations domestically as well as internationally.

## Q. Describe your proudest moment as a PGA Professional.

My proudest moments have come from the successes of my students. I have been fortunate to coach a number of very good junior players and seeing them reach their goals is very rewarding. I am also very proud to have been the recipient of the Gateway PGA Private Merchandiser of the Year award in 2010 & 2015.

## Q. What do you hope to achieve in 2017?

Personal achievements: My daughter, Olivia, is graduating high school this year and she has decided to become a Bulldog. Gwen and I look forward to taking her to Mississippi State in the Fall and visiting often. I will consider it a success if my



Jon Crane, PGA and his family

Freshman son Eli manages to finish his high school wrestling season with no major injuries and gets his drivers license this Summer, also with no major injuries. I hope to survive another year as the coach of my 5th grade son, Jack's football and basketball teams. So far we have managed to beat our very own "School Up North" so I have managed to hold on to my volunteer duties.

Professional achievements: Our club is going through some transitional changes and I look forward to taking a more active roll within the management of the club and the company.

## Q. In 2016, thePGA initiated #THXPGAPRO campaign; is there a PGA Professional that you would like to say "THX" to that impacted your career or life? How did they do so?

I have a few. Lee Hollworth gave me my first golf lessons when I was 14. His passion for the game got me hooked. Bill Vaughn was the first assistant at Long Cove Club when I did my internship. He allowed me the opportunity to touch every aspect of the golf operation and trusted me with those opportunities. Richard Taylor was a great mentor and taught me much about the business of golf. I continue to implement policies and procedures I learned from Richard to this day.

## Q. Who would be your dream foursome and why, and where would you play?

My dream foursome would be a Four Ball match playing with my dad against Old and Young Tom Morris at St. Andrews. My dad introduced me to the game and passed along a passion for links golf. We have never had the opportunity to play in Scotland together. I couldn't think of a better father/son match or better tour guides.



# 2016 - 2017 Graduating Seniors

## Front Row (L - R)

**Zach Tate**  
Assistant Professional  
Wynlakes G & CC  
Montgomery, AL

**Jacob Fryer**  
Event Coordinator  
Business Golf Int'l, LLC  
Atlanta, GA

**Luke Reilly**  
Certified Personal Coach  
GolfTEC Carle Place  
Carle Place, NY

**Nathan Fisher**  
Assistant Professional  
Pleasant Valley Country Club  
Little Rock, AR

**John Jacobs**  
Assistant Professional  
Berkeley Hall Golf Club  
Bluffton, SC

## Back Row (L - R)

**Caleb Stodden**  
Arlington, TN

**Andrew Bradberry**  
Fayetteville, GA

**Gathon Garriga**  
Assistant Professional  
Germantown CC  
Germantown, TN

**Ben Hatala**  
Head Professional  
Craft Farms Golf Resort  
Gulf Shores AL

**Andrew Argotsinger**  
Assistant Professional  
Windyke Country Club  
Memphis, TN

**Alec Skidmore**  
Caddy  
Mossy Oak Golf Club  
West Point, MS

**Joe Murphy**  
Certified Personal Coach  
GolfTEC Tyson's Center  
Tyson's Corner, VA

**Matthew Connell**  
Tuscaloosa, AL  
*(not pictured)*

# MSU Wins 7th Consecutive Heritage Cup

**STARKVILLE, MS** – The final score does not reflect it, but the 2016 playing of the Heritage Cup between the PGA Golf Management Program of Mississippi State and Sam Houston State was a tightly contested event. The Bulldogs were able to secure their seventh consecutive victory in the annual matches, with a final tally of 14.5 – 7.5.

The host team rallied around Director, Jeff Adkerson, as he made known to the team shortly prior to the event, that this would be his final competitive event in his golfing career, shortened by injury. They responded early by jumping out to a 4.5 – 1.5 lead in the morning Foursomes matches. The host team is able to select which order the formats would be played, and team captains Jeff Adkerson and Adam Scott determined Foursomes early would benefit the Bulldogs. The first points on the board came from the fourth match out, as Robbie Fields and Eric Voss, the "2-5-6 Mafia", made their presence felt with a convincing 5 & 4 victory in both players' first match in Heritage Cup play.

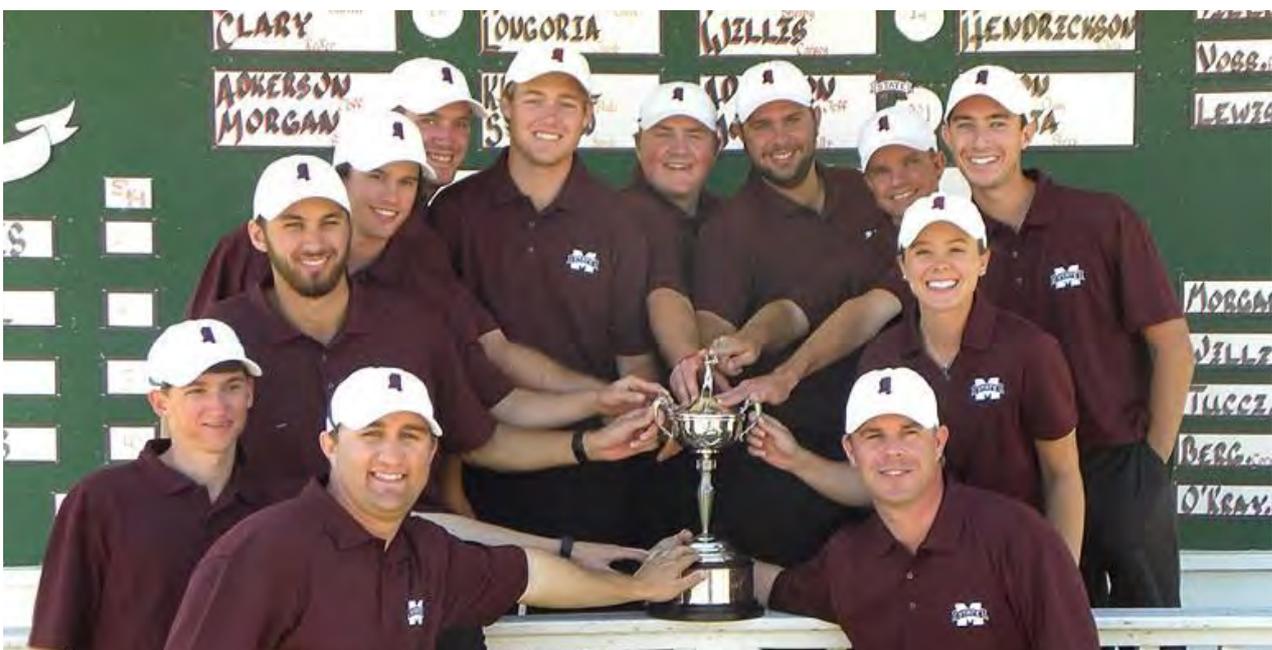
Good vibes continued into the afternoon Four-Ball matches, as the first three matches out were wrapped in Maroon & White. Sophomore Brandon O'Kray and junior Cory Berg were able to bounce-back from their defeat

in Foursomes to come away with a 3 & 2 victory that pushed the afternoon session to another 4.5 – 1.5 win for the Bulldogs. At the conclusion of Day 1, Mississippi State led Sam Houston 9 – 3, a strong lead, but nothing to take for granted.

Sunday presented an absolutely perfect day to conclude the Heritage Cup, sunny and 75 degrees was the high. In an attempt to apply some pressure and flip the matches, Sam Houston State sent out its upperclassmen early, and were able to secure 3.5 points in the first four matches, pushing the totals to 10.5 – 6.5 Bulldogs. However, the comeback attempt wasn't enough, as the depth of the home team was able to prevail.

However, the Singles rally was halted by junior, Sally Morgan. Down 3 thru 6 holes, Sally jarred a birdie putt on the par 5 seventh and never looked back, securing her match on the 17th green, 3 & 1. Sally and Eric Voss were the only two students to go 3-0 for the weekend, for either team.

The Heritage Cup is the annual match play event alternately hosted by Mississippi State and Sam Houston State PGA Golf Management Programs. Founded in 2008, Mississippi State now owns an 7-1-1 record in the event, never having lost in Starkville.



Team (back; L-R): Eric Voss (Jr.), Robbie Fields (So.), Carson Willis (So.), Brandon O'Kray (So.), Cory Berg (Jr.), Keifer Clary (Jr.), Garrett Bernhardt (Jr.), Shelby Tucci (So.), Sally Morgan (Jr.), Hayden Lewis (Jr.)

## Past Winners 2016 (@ MSU)



## 2015 (@SHSU)



## 2014 (@MSU)



## 2013 (@SHSU)



## 2012 (@MSU)



## 2011 (@SHSU)



## 2010 (@MSU)



## 2009 (@SHSU)



## 2008 (@MSU)



## 2016 Heritage Cup Results

Match			RESULTS		
1	Shelby Tucci	Carson Willis	HALVED	Shane Hall	Tyler Davidson
2	Garrett Bernhardt	Keifer Clary	1 UP	Chris Hendrickson	Jacob Longoria
3	Jeff Adkerson	Sally Morgan	1 UP	Blake Kuempel	Sarah St. John
4	Robbie Fields	Eric Voss	5 & 4	Chase Bacon	Dylan Rowe
5	Cory Berg	Brandon O'Kray	1 UP	Colton Escamilla	Alex Lee
6	Hayden Lewis	Adam Scott	7 & 6	Rich Ballinger	Shrey Bhakta
<b>Session 1: Foursomes - MSU 4.5 - SHSU 1.5</b>					

Match			RESULTS		
7	Robbie Fields	Eric Voss	4 & 3	Rich Ballinger	Colton Escamilla
8	Shelby Tucci	Carson Willis	1 UP	Shane Hall	Chris Hendrickson
9	Jeff Adkerson	Sally Morgan	2 & 1	Chase Bacon	Shrey Bhakta
10	Hayden Lewis	Adam Scott	2 & 1	Jacob Longoria	Dylan Rowe
11	Cory Berg	Brandon O'Kray	3 & 2	Alex Lee	Sarah St. John
12	Garrett Bernhardt	Keifer Clary	HALVED	Tyler Davidson	Blake Kuempel
<b>Session 2: Four Ball - MSU 4.5 - SHSU 1.5</b>					

Match			RESULTS		
13	Keifer Clary		2 & 1	Tyler Davidson	
14	Garrett Bernhardt		HALVED	Chris Hendrickson	
15	Robbie Fields		2 UP	Shane Hall	
16	Eric Voss		2 & 1	Jacob Longoria	
17	Hayden Lewis		8 & 6	Alex Lee	
18	Sally Morgan		3 & 1	Colton Escamilla	
19	Carson Willis		3 & 2	Shrey Bhakta	
20	Shelby Tucci		2 & 1	Blake Kuempel	
21	Cory Berg		7 & 6	Chase Bacon	
22	Brandon O'Kray		2 UP	Dylan Rowe	
<b>Session 3: Singles - MSU 5.5 - SHSU 4.5</b>					



14.5

FINAL

7.5



# 2016 PGA Golf Management Tournament Results

This year, the spring semester tournament schedule included three (3) 36-hole majors. The fall semester schedule included three (3) 36-hole majors and two (2) 18-hole Sunday games for all PGA Golf Management students. We also hold Singles and Doubles Match Play throughout each semester. Format for Doubles is Foursomes in the spring, and Four-ball in the fall. Below are the top finishers and their scores in each of those events.

## SPRING

### Cowbell Classic, Jan 21-22

\*Cancelled due to inclement weather.

### Bulldog Classic, Feb. 6-7

#### Men's Division

Michael Alford*	74 – 73 – 147 (+5)
Cory Berg	75 – 72 – 147 (+5)
Hayden Austin	71 – 77 – 148 (+6)
Keifer Clary	77 – 71 – 148 (+6)
Robbie Fields	75 – 74 – 149 (+7)

#### Ladies' Division

Taylor Kennedy	83 – 77 – 160 (+19)
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\*won in a playoff

### Spring Championship, Feb. 21-22

#### Men's Division

Hayden Austin	68 – 70 – 138 (-4)
Garrett Bernhardt	68 – 71 – 139 (-3)
Robbie Fields	75 – 67 – 142 (E)
Garrett Powell	71 – 73 – 144 (+2)
Brandon O'Kray	71 – 75 – 146 (+4)

#### Ladies' Division

Taylor Kennedy	80 – 79 – 159 (+18)
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### Sunday Game #1, Feb. 28

#### Men's Division

Garrett Powell	72 (+1)
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#### Ladies' Division

Taylor Kennedy	83 (+12)
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### Sunday Game #2, Apr. 10

#### Men's Division

Garrett Powell*	71 (E)
-----------------	--------

\*won in a playoff

### Singles Match Play

1st - Cory Berg

### Doubles Match Play

1st - Garrett Bernhardt & Keifer Clary

To view the 2017 Spring MSU PGA Golf Management Club Tournament page, click the Golf Genius icon!



Andrew Argotsinger (Sr.) with his first Hole in One on 15th hole at the MSU GC



Taylor Kennedy (So.) posing with Fall Championship trophy

# FALL

## Elaine Cup, Aug. 20-21

### Men's Division

Keifer Clary	73 – 71 – 141 (+2)
Matthew Voss	72 – 75 – 147 (+5)
Beau Bryan	74 – 74 – 148 (+6)
Michael Ferrer	75 – 73 – 148 (+3)
Nathan Fisher	75 – 73 – 148 (+3)

### Ladies Division

Taylor Kennedy	79 – 79 – 158 (+16)
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## Sunday Game #1, Aug. 28

### Men's Division

Jesse Grimes	69 (-2)
--------------	---------

### Ladies' Division

Taylor Kennedy	74 (+3)
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## Sunday Game #2, Sep. 11

### Men's Division

Luke Reilly	70 (-1)
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### Ladies' Division

Taylor Kennedy	74 (+13)
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## Fall Championship, Sep. 24-25

### Men's Division

Cory Berg	69 – 70 – 139 (-3)
Zach Tate	70 – 70 – 140 (-2)
Andrew Argotsinger	73 – 70 – 143 (+1)
Hayden Hauss	69 – 74 – 147 (+1)
Bobby Flanagan	68 – 78 – 146 (+4)

### Ladies' Division

Taylor Kennedy	76 – 76 – 152 (+10)
----------------	---------------------

## JWA Invitational, Oct. 22-23

### Men's Division

Thomas Simpson	77 – 72 – 149 (+7)
Keifer Clary	77 – 73 – 150 (+8)
Garrett Bernhardt	75 – 76 – 151 (+9)
Zach Tate	73 – 78 – 151 (+9)
Michael Ferrer	75 – 77 – 152 (+10)

### Ladies' Division

Elise Pope*	80 – 86 – 166 (+24)
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\*won in a playoff

## Singles Match Play

1st - Keifer Clary

## Doubles Match Play

1st - Adam Scott, PGA & Erika Scott

To view tournament pictures, view awards presentations, and stay up-to-date on Program and Club events, follow all our social media outlets!



Elise Pope (Sr.) blasts out of greenside bunker on 7th hole at MSU GC

## Spring 2017 Schedule

1/21 - 1/22

Cowbell Classic  
9:00am Tee Times

2/4 - 2/5

Bulldog Classic  
9:00am Tee Times

2/19

Sunday Game #1  
9:00am Tee Times

2/25 - 2/26

Spring Championship  
9:00am Tee Times

3/24 - 3/26

Heritage Cup  
@ SHSU

4/9

Sunday Game #2  
9:00am Tee Times

4/22 - 4/23

Super PGM Weekend

# FAMILY STATE Weekend

By: Daniel Soehren, PGA

**STARKVILLE, MS** - The 2016 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 Weekend, October 28-30th. This year, approximately 145 grandparents, parents, siblings, and friends joined in the weekend's festivities.

Friday night played host to the PGM Club's annual silent auction. The silent auction benefits both the PGA Golf Management Club and the Folds of Honor Foundation. To learn more about Folds of Honor, [click here](#). Approximately \$2,700 was raised from the silent auction this year! We had numerous interesting items auctioned off, including a Folds of Honor Foundation Titleist staff golf bag (proceeds donated to Folds of Honor Foundation), Ryder Cup memorabilia (flag, towel, tumblers), and MSU signed sport balls. We were also fortunate to have items donated from Pinehurst Resort, Bethpage Black, and Old Waverly Golf Club.

As the silent auction closed, however, one special item was introduced, and a live auction was conducted! Program Director, Jeff Adkerson, volunteered his services as a caddy for one round during to the highest bidder! Assistant Director, Adam Scott, utilized his sharp auctioneering skill and quite the bidding war resulted! The bid reached \$450, at which point it was decided each bidder would split the cost and each student would receive a round caddied by Mr. Adkerson. The proceeds from this live auction were split between the PGA Golf Management Club and the Folds of Honor Foundation.



Per Program tradition, each family in attendance received a gift according to the class to which their student belonged. Freshman families received a MSU PGA Golf Management logo cowbell; Sophomore families received a MSU PGA Golf Management logo maroon sweatshirt blanket; Senior families received a set of laser-etched MSU PGA Golf Management drinking glasses; and Graduating Senior families received a re-purposed wood picture frame. We hope to see each family return every year to collect all four gifts!

Kickoff for the football game on Saturday against the Samford Bullsogs was announced for 2:30pm, setting the stage for a perfect early-afternoon tailgate. The weather was immaculate and we had a tremendous time fellowshiping with students, families and friends over good food. To top it all off, the weekend concluded with an exciting and high-scoring MSU victory, 56-41.

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 and your student. We hope to see you all again at next year's Family Weekend!



Team Member (L-R): Luke Reilly (Sr.), Hayden Hauss (So.), Bobby Flanagan (Sr.), Jeff Adkerson, PGA, Adam Scott, PGA, Keifer Clary (Sr.), Zach Tate (Sr.),

## NMSU Goes Back-to-Back

By: John Dever, PGA of America

**PORT ST. LUCIE, Fla.** – Some say that once is a mistake, and twice could be a pattern.

For New Mexico State University's PGA Golf Management program, which today secured its second Jones Cup in as many years on the Wanamaker Course at PGA Golf Club, back-to-back victories suggest the strong likelihood of a winning program pedigree.

With a two-day total of 594, the Aggies became the first program to win consecutive Jones Cups since Coastal Carolina in 2004 and '05.

Penning a remarkably similar script to last year, New Mexico State erased a three-shot deficit after the first day to edge Florida Gulf Coast University (597), North Carolina State (600) and Eastern Kentucky pushed hard on Wednesday, but placed third and fourth, respectively.

Last year, the Aggies trailed by two shots before ultimately claiming their third Jones Cup in program history. NMSU's initial victory in the event came in 2006.

them that they can never take the 2015 Jones Cup away from us," said Josh Salmon, the Aggies' PGA Golf Management Program Specialist, who was on hand for last year's victory, which channeled the incredible emotions associated with the unexpected passing of 18 year-old Gage Gavin, the son of New Mexico State's Golf Management Director, Pat Gavin. "Yes, last year was special because of what Pat's family was going through, and those events are always in our minds. That said, we also have 1,300-plus alumni, family and friends of the program that we represent and this victory is for them, too."

The PGA Jones Cup 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.

### PAST CHAMPIONS



2016



2015



2008



2014



2007



2013



2006



2012



2005



2011



2004



2010



2003



2009



2002





# PGA™

# PGA SECTION AWARD WINNERS

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 national PGA Professional Player of the Year Award in 2012 & 2013 award. These boards serve not only as recognition, but also as inspiration for current students to work hard and strive to be the best.

## Youth Player Development Award

*Chris Altese, PGA  
Gulf States*

## Bill Strausbaugh Award

*Casey Smith, PGA  
Dixie  
(2015)*

## Teacher of the Year

*Virgil Herring, PGA  
Tennessee  
(2015)*

## Horton Smith Award

*Paul Whitman, PGA  
Dixie  
(2015)*

## Chapter Assistant of the Year

*Matt Williamson, PGA  
North Florida  
Northern Chapter*

## Chapter Assistant of the Year

*Grant Landry, PGA  
Gulf States  
Louisiana Chapter*

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

# New Positions

**Chris Apple, PGA**  
Head Professional  
Hideaway at Arrington  
College Grove, TN

**Robert Birtel, PGA**  
Director of Golf Operations  
Casa de Campo Resort & Villas  
La Romana, DR

**Amanda Bruski, PGA**  
Sales Representative  
KJUS North America  
NYC, CT, RI, FL

**Kelly Cobb, PGA**  
Head Professional  
La Gorce Country Club  
Miami Beach, FL

**Sean Cracraft, PGA**  
Senior Vice President  
OB Sports Golf Management  
Scottsdale, AZ

**Thomas Fowler, PGA**  
Head Professional  
Woodhaven Country Club  
Palm Desert, CA

**Blake Hatfield, PGA**  
Assistant Professional  
Reunion Golf & Country Club  
Madison, MS

**Virgil Herring, PGA**  
Director of Instruction  
River Club Golf & Learning Center  
Clarksville, TN

**Brett Hockenberry, PGA**  
Assistant Professional  
Naples National Golf Club  
Naples, FL

**Kyle Newell, PGA**  
Regional Manager/DOI  
GolfTEC Louisville  
Louisville, KY

**Patrick Quernemoen, PGA**  
GM/COO  
The Tradition at Wolong Valley  
Chengdu, China

**Adam Scott, PGA**  
Director of PGA Golf Management  
University of Colorado, Colorado Springs  
Colorado Springs, CO

**Tyler Slocum, PGA**  
Assistant Professional  
Lake Shore Country Club  
Glencoe, IL

**Casey Smith, PGA**  
General Manager  
Reunion Golf & Country Club  
Madison, MS

**Andrew Smith, PGA**  
General Manager  
Pine Tree Country Club  
Birmingham, AL

**Matt Williamson, PGA**  
Head Professional  
TPC Louisiana  
New Orleans, LA





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Dear Alumni:

I hope this letter finds you well during the start of the holiday season. This is always an exciting time to spend with family and friends as we celebrate Christmas and a New Year. With each new year brings change and change is why I am writing this letter.

I have officially accepted the position of Director of the PGA Golf Management Program at the University of Colorado Colorado Springs. This is an exciting time for my wife and I as we embark on the next chapter of our lives. Having only visited Colorado a few times, we are looking forward to a new state full of different experiences and challenges.

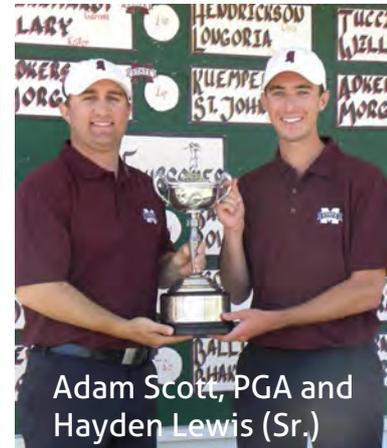
I arrived on campus in the Fall of 2003 as a self-proclaimed know-it-all kid. Little did I know, I knew nothing and Mississippi State, Starkville, and the PGA Golf Management program would humble me and ultimately mold me into the man I am today. Mississippi State and the program have taught and given me far more than I could have imagined. Coming from a small town in Alabama, this place opened my eyes to the possibilities afforded by the golf industry.

My wife and I will certainly miss the sounds of cowbells, the taste of Little Dooney, and the walk up to the 3rd floor of McCool. As all of you know, Mississippi State is a special place. A place we will hold dear in our hearts forever. We know we will be back for alumni weekends and football games, but nothing will ever replace the family atmosphere we have felt since the day we both arrived on campus.

I wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. I look forward to seeing you at future events.

Sincerely,

Adam Scott, PGA



# #THXPGAPRO

In 2016, the PGA of America celebrated its Centennial anniversary, 100 years of service to the game of golf and its members. To honor the contributions of the many great golf professionals that have worked tirelessly to grow and promote the game of golf, as well as mentor future professionals, the PGA of America initiated the #THXPGAPRO campaign.

The PGA Golf Management Program is proud to join in this campaign, as several of our students wished to express their "THX" to PGA Professionals that have impacted them in some way through the game of golf.

Special #ThxPGAPro to **Michael Brisbane** for teaching me, growing my love for the game, and fueling my own passion to become a PGA pro. – *Jesse Grimes*

Thank you **Nancy Quarcelino** and **Rita Reasons** for teaching me that golf is a game to cherish and love all my life. You taught me to have fun and never give up on what I truly believe in. #THXPGAPROS - *Hunter Hargrove (below)*



Rita Reasons, LPGA, Hunter Hargrove, and Nancy Quarcelino, PGA/LPGA



Jon Willson, PGA and Joe Murphy (Sr.)

#THXPGAPRO **Jon Wilson** for mentoring me and helping me discover my passion for teaching the game we love and witnessing my first hole-in-one. – *Joe Murphy (above)*

#THXPGAPRO **Mike Gill** for your influence on me. You grew my love for the game and inspired me to positively impact other's lives through it. – *Ben Hatala*

**Gene Carello** is the best mentor anyone could ask for, I owe him for everything I have today not just in golf but for everything in life.

#THXPGAPRO – *Zach Tate*

# Campus Updates



## Men's Women's Golf Team Unveil New Practice Clubhouse

In 2016, the Mississippi State University men's and women's golf teams unveiled their new practice facility, located on the property of the new Mossy Oak Golf Club. The facility includes a five-green driving range, short-game training areas and a 16,000 square foot putting green formed into the shape of the State of Mississippi.

The facility also features a 6,400-square foot team clubhouse with locker rooms,

lounge, coaches' offices, indoor putting center (with SAM PuttLab training system), exercise room and conference room. The project also features a 2,400-square foot indoor hitting bay, equipped with two Trackman swing and ball flight analysis systems and a club repair room.

The Bulldog Club, the private fundraising arm of the Mississippi State Athletics, partnered with Old Waverly Golf Club on the \$2.2 million project.

## Bulldogs dominate Rebels, 55-20 to Reclaim Egg Bowl

**OXFORD, Miss.** - In front of the biggest crowd in Egg Bowl history, Mississippi State ran past rival Ole Miss 55-20 to reclaim the Golden Egg trophy Saturday afternoon at Vaught-Hemingway Stadium.

The Bulldogs (5-7, 3-5 SEC) went three-and-out on their first drive, then ramped up for an offensive explosion the rest of the game, quickly taking a 27-10 lead over the Rebels (5-7, 2-6) in the second quarter, before UM trimmed the margin to 27-20 at halftime. But State dominated the second half, outscoring the Rebels 28-0 to cruise to victory in the 113th all-time meeting between the teams. The Bulldogs' 55 points were the most scored in the annual rivalry since MSu score 65 in 1915.

MSU's offensive output came largely on the ground as the sophomore duo of quarterback Nick Fitzgerald and Aeris Williams helped MSU set a new school record for rushing yards in an



SEC game (457). Fitzgerald set MSU's all-time rushing record by a player at any position with 14 carries for 258 yards and two touchdowns.

Mississippi State then capped off the 2016 season with a win in the St. Petersburg Bowl and against the Miami Redhawks, 17-16. It was not pretty, but the win was Coach Mullen's fifth bowl win in his tenure at Mississippi State.

The offseason has been an active one as well, as the Bulldogs hired a new defensive coordinator, Todd Grantham. Grantham came over from the Louisville Cardinals. Ironically, Peter Sirmon assumed Grantahm's role as DC at Louisville.

# Campus Updates



## John Cohen named University's 17th Athletic Director

The current MSU head baseball coach and two-time Southeastern Conference Coach of the Year replaces Scott Stricklin, who was named athletic director at the University of Florida in September.

Cohen, 50, has spent over two decades coaching college baseball and has been the head baseball coach at MSU since 2009. In July he was given the title of Associate Athletic

Director, broadening his role in the MSU Athletic Department.

"I'm fortunate to know our MSU coaches as friends and colleagues, and to know many of our athletes in all sports," Cohen said. "While baseball has been a huge part of my life, my passion for seeing MSU athletics thrive and win extends to all sports. As associate director of athletics, I've been a significant part of planning the future of MSU Athletics and I believe I can hit the ground running in advancing that agenda. I'm grateful to Dr. Keenum and the Bulldog stakeholders who advised him for allowing me to embrace these new and critical responsibilities."

Cohen will take over an athletic department that has recently achieved new heights in athletic, academic, facility and fundraising accomplishments. As athletic director, Cohen is charged with providing leadership, management and administration for the university's athletic programs.

*Full article available at HailState.com.*



The former Major Leaguer, pro scout and Southeastern Conference assistant coach comes to MSU with a lifetime of baseball experience and high praise at all ranks of baseball from around the country.

"I always had goals and aspirations to be able to be a Division 1 head baseball coach at the highest level. The SEC is the biggest, baddest league on the planet. I am speechless. The fans are amazing, the players play hard, and it was a dream of mine to coach somewhere with so much tradition. Now that it is a reality, I am the most excited man on the whole planet."

*Full article available at HailState.com*

## Cohen Names Cannizaro Head Baseball Coach

STARKVILLE, Miss. – Andy Cannizaro was officially introduced as Mississippi State's new head baseball coach during a press conference Monday (11/7/16) afternoon.

Cannizaro replaces John Cohen.



## Dudy Noble to Showcase Largest Video Board in College Baseball

Dudy Noble Field, home to the top 13 on-campus attendances in college baseball, will now become home to the largest video board in college baseball in time for the upcoming 2017 season.

Measuring 43.2 feet tall and 60 feet wide, the new board will span a total of 2,592 square feet, which is 260 percent larger than the existing board.



# PGA Golf Management Staff



Jeff Adkerson, PGA  
Director  
PGA Golf Management  
EMAIL



Daniel Soehren, PGA  
Program Assistant  
PGA Golf Management  
EMAIL



Angie Chrestman  
Associate Director, Career Center  
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EMAIL

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