

2009 SAFE Scholarship Winners

Graduate Scholarships

Dr. James Watson Graduate Scholarship - \$2,500 Andrew Hoiberg, Iowa State

Four Year Scholarships

Dr. James Watson Undergraduate Scholarship - \$2,500 Brian McDougal, Michigan State
SAFE Undergraduate Scholarship - \$2,000 Kyley Dickson, Tennessee
SAFE Undergraduate Scholarship - \$1,000 Kent Dickerson, Georgia, Eric Haub, Purdue, Zack Severns, Washington State

Two Year Scholarships

Dr. Fred Grau Memorial Scholarship - \$1,500 Ryan McGillivray, Massachusetts
SAFE Two Year Scholarship - \$1,000 Patrick Escalera, Mt. San Antonio College

The Foundation for Safer Athletic Field Environments (SAFE) was created to provide research, educational programs, and scholarships geared to sports field specific endeavors. The level of scholarship funding has steadily increased since the scholarship programs inception in 1999 and in 2009 we awarded \$12,500 to eight recipients in two-year, four-year, and graduate level categories. Since the scholarship program's beginning, SAFE has awarded more than \$150,000 in scholarship and travel to the STMA Conference and Exhibition.

Judging criteria: A panel of eight judges independently scored each entry based on each student's academic preparation, experi-

ence in the sports turf management industry, professional goals, extracurricular activities, and input from academic advisors and employers. Each student also wrote an essay describing his or her background and career aspirations.

Scholarship Program Supporters: The TORO Foundation provides generous support for the Dr. James Watson Scholarship winners. Jacobsen supports the SAFE Scholarship Program through the SAFE/Jacobsen Golf Tournament held at the STMA Conference each year. The program is also supported through individual and corporate donations made throughout the year and proceeds from the Live and Silent Auctions and raffle held

each year on the STMA Trade Show Floor. These sponsors fund a stipend for each recipient to attend the STMA annual conference (including lodging) and a scholarship ranging from \$1,000 to \$2,500.

Recognition: Scholarship recipients had their financial aid mailed directly to their university, with a check made out jointly to them and their schools financial aid office. The students were recognized during the Annual STMA Awards Banquet at the 21st Annual STMA Conference and Exhibition held at Disney's Coronado Springs Resort and Convention Center in Lake Buena Vista, FL. ■

STMA recognizes STA as first International Affiliate Organization

The Sports Turf Managers Association (STMA) is very pleased to announce that it is recognizing its first International Affiliate Organization, the Sports Turf Association (STA) headquartered in Guelph, ON, Canada. The STA was formed in 1987 to promote better, safer sports turf through innovation, education and professional programs. STA and STMA will collaborate and share information and educational resources.

To be an International Affiliate, the organization must be recognized as a business entity in their country and provide proof to STMA

annually; develop bylaws or other governing documents; and have a governing Board of Directors. The STA meets these requirements and officially became an STMA International Affiliate Organization last November.

In addition to sharing information and resources, STMA will list the STA on its website as an International Affiliate Organization, provide one membership annually to the President of the STA, and will offer to the membership of the STA conference registration and education and training resources at STMA member rates.

Outgoing STMA President Abby McNeal,

CSFM was enthusiastic about the new partnership. "Officially establishing a relationship with the STA will help to connect our memberships and allow us to collaborate on issues common across the profession," said McNeal. "Our Board of Directors has much respect for the work of the STA, and we know we will learn from them."

Gord Dol, STA President, concurred. "We believe that this is an important step forward in establishing an information conduit for organizations around the world to share research, knowledge, and experience for the advancement of everyone involved in the sports turf industry." ■