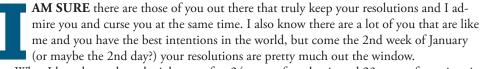
President's Message

Dr. Mike Goatley

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I resolve to be responsibly cynical...



What I have learned on the job now after 24 years of academia and 23 years of marriage is to be as realistic as possible regarding my resolutions from both professional and personal perspectives. As I began my career in academia, I remember being advised by a full professor to "undersell and over deliver" in my teaching and research efforts. I also remember one of the tenured faculty members at a departmental meeting saying "let's get everything out of Goatley that we can before he figures out what is going on." Neither of these perspectives made a lot of sense to me in the late 1980s, but they certainly have a lot more meaning in my career at this point in time.

When you are young and ready to conquer the world, one of your biggest challenges is to figure out an appropriate balance between work and home (my wife would say that it took a while but I've finally figured this out). I admire our students and the young professionals in the sports turf industry and your gusto for your profession and life in general. You all inspire and motivate many of us more, shall I say, "mature" members. However, I join others that are my age and older to remind you to take your time and soak things in as much as possible as the opportunities present. I always remind my students that I doubt they will ever be as smart as they are than the day they graduate from college—when the real education begins.

What? No inspirational New Year's message for success? I do encourage you to identify a few "must do" goals in your personal and professional lives and try to find a balance between ones that you know you are going to achieve, and those that you really want to achieve IF things go as planned. I truly anticipate great things for STMA in 2013 and it is because we have such a well-defined strategic plan to take us forward for the next 2 years. It has what I think is the appropriate balance of "must do" and "what if" goals and we have an immensely qualified staff, a great Board, and some of the most dedicated members of any association with whom I have ever worked. I wish everyone only the best for 2013. And I want you to know, I am not really a stick-in-the-mud. I am fulfilling my resolution of being "responsibly cynical." Trust me; you'll probably get there one day yourself.

Milly Goattey

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