



▲ **2014 STMA Board of Directors L to R:** Jeff Salmond, CSFM; Jeffrey Fowler; Phil McQuade; Tim Van Loo, CSFM; Sarah Martin, CSFM; Andrew Gossel; Mike Tarantino, CSFM; James Graff; President David Pinsonneault, CSFM, CPRP; Bradley Jakubowski; Immediate Past President James Michael Goatley, Jr., PhD; President-Elect Allen Johnson, CSFM; and Doug Schattinger.

Meet the 2014 STMA Board of Directors

The 2014 Board of Directors took office January 23 during the STMA Annual Meeting, which was held in conjunction with the association's annual conference in San Antonio. STMA's new President, David Pinsonneault, CSFM, CPRP made two appointments, as required by the bylaws, as his first official duty of the office.

Elected to the board were:

President, David Pinsonneault, CSFM, CPRP, Town of Lexington, MA
 President-Elect, Allen Johnson, CSFM, Green Bay Packers, Green Bay, WI
 Immediate Past President, James Michael Goatley, Jr., PhD, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA, Vice President Commercial, James Graff, Graff's Turf Farms, Ft. Morgan, CO
 Secretary/Treasurer, Jeff Salmond, CSFM, University of Oklahoma, Norman, OK
 Director representing Higher Education, Tim Van Loo, CSFM, Iowa State University, Ames, IA
 Director representing Parks & Recreation, Sarah Martin, CSFM, City of Phoenix, AZ
 Director representing the Academic category, Jeffrey Fowler, Penn State Cooperative Extension, Franklin, PA
 Elected-at-Large Director, Bradley Jakubowski, Doane College, Crete, NE

The Directors who are fulfilling their second year of their terms are:

Professional facilities category, Phil McQuade, Kroenke Sports Enterprise/Colorado Rockies, Commerce City, CO
 Schools K-12 Andrew Gossel, Covenant Christian High School, Indianapolis, IN

Those appointed to the Board include:

Appointed Director At-Large Mike Tarantino, CSFM, Poway Unified School District, Poway, CA
 Commercial Director Doug Schattinger, Pioneer Manufacturing, Cleveland, OH

Officers serve one year terms; Directors serve 2-year terms. STMA conducts its annual elections electronically in late November.

STMA'S Silver Anniversary Conference experiences record international growth

The Sports Turf Managers Association, 2,600 members strong, hosted the 25th annual Conference & Exhibition in San Antonio Tex. with nearly 1,600 attendees and 164 exhibitors from eight countries. The crowd included sports turf managers, academics, and other industry professionals from across the globe converging on a sometimes-icy but never boring San Antonio to celebrate the profession.

The 5-day event featured seminars, lectures, general sessions and exhibits from sports turf and environmental science leaders in 11 conference tracts: agronomic, construction / renovation, facility management, industry developments, pest control, professional development, safety, synthetic and water.

"Our annual Conference brings heightened awareness to the sports turf profession and the individuals who provide safe playing surfaces for millions of athletes every day," says **David Pinsonneault, CSFM, CPRP**, newly elected STMA President and Public Grounds Superintendent for the Town of Lexington, MA. "We hope the educational experiences and best practices shared throughout the week will be implemented in communities across the nation to enhance safety and quality in sports fields."

The Foundation for Safer Athletic Fields (SAFE), STMA's charitable foundation, raised more than \$30,000 during the conference through its Jan. 21 golf tournament at The Republic Golf Club; Jan. 22 "Casino Night" with close to 70 players; and silent and live auctions throughout the week. Proceeds benefit educational programs, scholarships and grants with the goal of enriching communities through safe, sustainable sports and recreation fields for all athletes. The golf hole in one sponsor was Carolina Green.

STMA Conference sponsors included Arysta LifeScience; Barenbrug USA; Covermaster; Diamond Pro; Hunter Industries; John Deere; Toro; and World Class Athletic Surfaces. A big thank you to all sponsors for their continued supported of the association and sports turf managers nationwide.

Next year's event will be held in Denver, January 13-16, 2015. Additional future sites include San Diego (2016); Orlando (2017) and Fort Worth, TX (2018).

Founders Award winners

Friday night's Awards Banquet was topped off with a presentation of the industry's most prestigious awards, STMA's Founders Awards, with a special guest: one of the founders, Dick Ericson, was on hand to say a few words about his time with a growing STMA and to co-present the award with last year's winner, Amy Fouty. Honored were: Dick Ericson Award – **Rich Watson**, Pine Hill Schools in New Jersey; George Toma "Golden Rake" Award – **Matt Tobin**, Pioneer Athletics; Dr. William H. Daniel Award – **Brad Fresenburg, PhD**, University



▲ **Conference attendees** enjoying renewed acquaintances. L to R: Tom Burns, Diamond Pro; Dale Getz, CSFM, Toro, and Amy Fouty, CSFM, athletic turf manager at Michigan State.

of Missouri; and Harry C. Gill Memorial Award – **Willis “Bucky” Trotter**, Sports Facilities Insights, LLC.

Dr. Rick Rigsby, keynote speaker

Dr. Rick Rigsby officially kicked off the conference in the opening General Session with a rousing, impactful speech about the virtue in pushing past the superficiality that can sometimes be prevalent in our “social media-focused” society. His talk was entitled “Making an Impact: Being the Best You Can Be” and he did make his own impact on all who were present and lucky enough to hear him speak. He celebrated the “behind-the-scenes” folks who make a difference, which sports turf managers do every day, and encouraged listeners to always make a mark in their own unique ways. Dr. Rigsby graciously remained after the talk to speak to attendees, shake hands and answer questions about his own remarkable journey.

Education

Education began on Tuesday with 2.5 hour Academy sessions and finished on Friday. Attendees were introduced to brand new technology in “New Trends and Technology in Sports Turf” and Amy Fouty, CSFM’s “Using Soil Moisture & Temperature Sensors as a Part of an Integrated Approach to Managing Athletic Fields.” Pest control sessions such as “Insect Control Update for Sports Fields – Current & Future Programs” presented by Dr. David Shetlar and “Managing Sports Fields without Conventional Pesticides” by Dr. Eric Lyons, gave the latest updates on Integrated Pest Management programs and what to expect for the upcoming year. Many sessions were

standing room-only, as attendees wanted tips and advice from some of the nation’s top professionals. In addition to a first class line-up of educational topics on sports field management, professional development sessions were also on the program to provide attendees education on personal improvement as well as improving workplace relationships and communication. Tim VanLoo, CSFM and Joel Rieker addressed relationships between different generations in “Bridging the Generation Gap in the Turf Industry.” Jerry Balistreri instructed attendees on how to read non-verbal communication in “Reading the Tells – Learning How to Read Body Language.” Other topical areas such as construction/renovation, synthetic fields, water, safety, agronomy, and facility management were covered as different tracks to meet the needs of sports turf managers across the country. STMA thanks the speakers that were able to share their knowledge and experiences to continue to help shape and grow the professionalism of the sports turf industry.

Congratulations, Indiana Chapter!

During the Chapter Officers Training session (COTS), the Indiana Chapter was formally (re)installed. The previous incarnation of the Indiana chapter folded in 2005 with less than 10 members. In 2013, it completed all of the processes to re-establish and now boasts a remarkable 127 members. Congratulations, Indiana Chapter!

President’s Award for Leadership

STMA Past-President Dr. Mike Goatley presented the 2013 President’s Award for Leadership at Friday’s Awards Banquet. In his remarks before announcing his selection, he said “This year’s President’s Award for Leadership recipient was the first Certified Sports Field Builder, and he will also proudly tell you that he is a CSFM. He is asked by folks like me on a very regular basis to contribute both professionally and financially to educational programs, field days, conferences etc. and he has always shared his experiences and his support over and over again. He regularly gives of his time and finances in support of numerous projects at all levels, but particularly goes above and beyond for lower budgeted high school and parks and rec facilities in what he delivers. I constantly cite him as a

resource when I am consulting with sports field managers when I tell them that this man certainly has a service or products that he would like to sell you, but he will not try to sell you anything. He has filled in the gaps for me far too many times to mention as a tremendous resource with vast experience in construction, renovation, and maintenance.

“Although I did not know it until I met him in 2008, this man also turns out to be a Hokie alum, even touting a football career at VT (although I don’t see his name on any of the flags flying above Lane Stadium).

It is my honor and privilege to recognize **Chad Price, CSFM, CFB**, of Carolina Green Inc. as this year’s recipient of the STMA President’s Award for Leadership.”

Student Challenge

Congratulations to all STMA Student Challenge participants for their exceptional performance on the 2014 exam, conducted at conference! The Student Challenge is presented by SAFE and founding partner Hunter Industries. Ten 2-year teams and 21 4-year teams competed for \$4,000 awards in each division.

2-year Competition: First place, **Mt. San Antonio College, Team 202**; second place, Kirkwood Community College, Team 201; third place tie, Kirkwood Community College, Team 204 and Mt. San Antonio College, Team 209.

4-year Competition: First place, **University of Maryland, Team 410**; second place, Virginia Tech University, Team 412; third place (tie), Purdue University, Team 419 and Colorado State University, Team 402.

The funds provided by SAFE are meant to benefit the turfgrass science programs at the winner’s schools. Use of the awards can include creating an Athletic Sports Field learning lab, purchasing athletic sports field specific equipment and products, or other items or projects approved by the STMA Student Challenge Committee. Funds are required to be spent before the next year’s STMA annual conference.

Grant & scholarship winners

All grants and scholarships were presented at the Awards Banquet, which took place this year in the Lone Star Ballroom of the San Antonio Grand Hyatt.

Zachary Avers of The Ohio State University was the winner of the 2013 Gary Vanden Berg Internship Grant. Avers interned at Emirates Stadium in London for the Arsenal Football Club.

Don Scholl, CSFM, superintendent of parks, sports fields & trees for the city of Tracy, CA won The Terry Mellor Continuing Education Grant, sponsored by Turface Athletics. This grant funds an STMA affiliated chapter member's attendance to the Conference and honors the importance of continuing education that Terry strongly supported his entire life.

SAFE's top scholarship in a 2-year program is named after Fred Grau, the first turfgrass extension specialist in the US. This year's Fred Grau winner was **Danielle Booth** from Mt. San Antonio College.

The SAFE undergraduate winner from a 4-year institution was **Evan Fowler**. He attends The Pennsylvania State University and, as the top scorer, received the James R. Watson Undergraduate SAFE scholarship sponsored by the Toro Company. Additional winners of SAFE undergraduate scholarships include **Josh Alleman** from Michigan State

University; **Josh Lenz**, from Iowa State University; and **oel Rieker**, from Iowa State University.

There were three graduate winners of SAFE scholarships: the top scorer was **Chase Straw** from the University of Georgia. He won the Watson Graduate SAFE Scholarship, sponsored by The Toro Company. The other SAFE graduate winners were **Kyle Dickson**, from the University of Tennessee and **Kevin Hansen**, from Iowa State University.

As a tribute to the Dr. Watson, Master of Ceremonies Tim Moore had everyone who ever received a Watson Scholarship stand to be recognized. Dr. Watson, a long-time agronomist at Toro, passed away in late 2013. The James R. Watson Scholarship program was established in 1998 in his honor.

Since 1989, STMA has hosted its annual convention at major cities across the U.S. including Daytona Beach, Fla. in 2013. Next year's event will be held in Denver, Colo. Jan. 13-16, 2015. Additional future sites include San Diego, Calif. (2016); Orlando, Fla. (2017) and Fort Worth, Tex. (2018). ■



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Colorado Sports Turf Managers Association: www.cstma.org

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Gateway Chapter Sports Turf Managers Association: www.gatewaystma.org.

Georgia Sports Turf Managers Association: www.gstma.org.

Greater L.A. Basin Chapter of the Sports Turf Managers Association: www.stmalabasin.com.

Illinois Chapter STMA: www.ILSTMA.org.

Intermountain Chapter of the Sports Turf Managers Association:
http://imstma.blogspot.com/

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Iowa Sports Turf Managers Association: www.iowaturfgrass.org.

Kentucky Sports Turf Managers Association: www.kystma.org.

Keystone Athletic Field Managers Org. (KAFMO/STMA): www.kafmo.org.

Michigan Sports Turf Managers Association (MiSTMA): www.mistma.org.

Minnesota Park and Sports Turf Managers Association: www.mpstma.org

MO-KAN Sports Turf Managers Association: www.mokanstma.com.

Nebraska Sports Turf Managers Association: sphillips4@unlnotes.unl.edu

New England STMA (NESTMA): www.nestma.org.

Sports Field Managers Association of New Jersey: www.sfmanj.org.

Sports Turf Managers of New York: www.stmony.org.

North Carolina Chapter of STMA: www.ncsportsturf.org.

Northern California STMA: www.norcalstma.org.

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Ozarks STMA: www.ozarksstma.org.

Pacific Northwest Sports Turf Managers Association: www.pnwstma.org.

Southern California Chapter: www.socalstma.com.

South Carolina Chapter of STMA: www.sc-stma.org.

Tennessee Valley Sports Turf Managers Association (TVSTMA): www.tvstma.com.

Texas Sports Turf Managers Association: www.txstma.org

Virginia Sports Turf Managers Association: www.vstma.org.

Wisconsin Sports Turf Managers Association: www.wstma.org.

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