

A summer with SAFE: an intern's diaries

The SAFE Foundation strives to champion safe, sustainable sports and recreation fields for all athletes, and I had the amazing opportunity to intern for them this summer. As a student at the University of Kansas, I was pleased to discover such an amazing non-profit so close to my heart right here in Lawrence! I played competitive softball for 15 years growing up, and understand how critical it is to have safe fields for athletes to play on. Even during my college career, intramurals depended on safe fields to ensure a fun and successful game.

I got to work on a variety of projects as an intern for the SAFE Foundation. Not only did I get to learn what the SAFE Foundation was all about, but I also got to help improve the foundation for the future. From an intern's perspective, you can't really get a better opportunity than that.

Over the course of the summer I had many different things on my plate, but the main focus was the scholarship anniversary articles. As seen in the August issue of *SportsTurf*, and also in the upcoming November issue, I got the opportunity to interview and talk with some amazingly successful people about their scholarship experience through SAFE. Speaking with those celebrating their 10-year

and 20-year anniversary since receiving their scholarship, I was able to learn how the SAFE scholarships can benefit students and their future careers. The best part about speaking with these individuals was what they had to say about the sports turf community. Every person I talked to raved about the camaraderie and friendships they had within the industry, and how receiving their scholarship and being introduced to STMA was a great launching point.

Most of these friendships rekindle when they join forces at STMA's Annual Conference. Since the SAFE Foundation's funding greatly benefits from the raffles, auctions and events at the conference, my responsibilities included promoting and requesting donations for these events. I also did a little investigation into more options for our silent auction for women. Looking into such options as athletic wear to a relaxing spa day, SAFE is hoping to cater toward the women of our industry.

Another main task for me this summer was working on the SAFE Foundation's social media and website. Since more and more people are taking to the internet and smart phones to find information, my job was to help find ways to make this more accessible to

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STMA Affiliated Chapters Contact Information

Sports Turf Managers Association of Arizona: www.azstma.org

Colorado Sports Turf Managers Association: www.cstma.org

Florida #1 Chapter (South):
305-235-5101 (Bruce Bates) or
Tom Curran CTomSell@aol.com

Florida #2 Chapter (North): 850-580-4026,
John Mascaro, john@turf-tec.com

Florida #3 Chapter (Central): 407-518-2347,
Scott Grace, scott@sundome.org

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/>

Indiana - Contact Clayton Dame, Claytondame@hotmail.com or Brian Bornino, bornino@purdue.edu or Contact Joey Stevenson, jstevenson@indyindians.com

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

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

Ohio Sports Turf Managers Association (OSTMA): www.ostma.org

Oklahoma Chapter STMA: 405-744-5729;
Contact: Dr. Justin Moss okstma@gmail.com

Oregon STMA Chapter: www.oregonsportsturfmanagers.org
oregonstma@gmail.com

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.scstma.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

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2 Which of the following best describes your title? (check ONLY ONE)

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 D \$100,001 - \$500,000 A \$25,000 and under

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them. Using the SAFE Twitter handle, I was able to promote SAFE's scholarship opportunity and their new Night of Entertainment for the 2015 STMA Conference in Denver. I also got to compose tweets recognizing donors who graciously gave to the SAFE Foundation. Twitter is a great way for the STMA and SAFE twitters to correspond and promote each other. Testimonials, pictures of raffle auction items and links to SAFE's website are all things you could find on SAFE's Twitter. On SAFE's website, I added a Testimonials page. This page is full of scholarship advice straight from the source of those who have already received the scholarship. I also added an option on the contact page where previous scholarship recipients could also share their story with us. Since we would not have the time to interview all recipients,

this gives anyone an opportunity to share their story and have their advice on the testimonials page.

Over the course of the summer, I have learned so much about this industry and researching for a new advertisement for SAFE helped me learn even more. I had the opportunity to gather some statistics for a new advertisement. This advertisement will be used to show numbers of how sports turf managers impact their community and how crucial it is to have safe fields to prevent injuries.

I am very grateful to any and all who have corresponded with me and helped me gather information this summer. I truly understand that the sports turf community is one of the nicest and most helpful, and I look forward to seeing how sports turf managers, STMA and the SAFE Foundation progress in the future. ■