2006 Distinguished Service Award Winner

John Turner, a 1980 Turf Alumnus, was the recipient of the 2006 MRTF Distinguished Service Award. Since his graduation, John has given back to the Turf Industry by serving as president of the Midwest Regional Turf Foundation (MRTF) in 1987 and again in 1999. He was on the board of directors from 1985 through 1988 and again from 1997 through 2000. Although no longer on the board, he continues his support within the MRTF and has been a member for over 25 years. He has also been heavily involved with Purdue serving on the Dean’s Advisory Council (2001-2004) and initiating the Bayer Scholarship Program, that continues to award scholarships to turf students from universities around the country, including Purdue. In addition, he was president of the Illinois Turf Foundation in 1989 and served on that group’s board of directors from 1986 through 1990. His dedication and commitment to turfgrass research within the state of Illinois, led him to the recognition of the Illinois Turf Foundation’s Distinguished Service Award in 1995. He also served as president of the Illinois Turf Endowment from 1996 through 2001.

New Graduate Student in the Turf Program

My name is Adam Moeller. I am originally from Sheboygan, WI. I became interested in turf science through golf. I enjoyed the game so much that I began working on a maintenance crew just for the golfing privileges. I worked on a local course for 5 summers and interned in Madison, WI and Kohler, WI the past 2 summers.

I graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in December of 2005 with a B.S. Degree in Horticulture with a concentration in Business. I am pursuing a M.S. Degree under Dr. Cale Bigelow. My thesis will be on bentgrass putting greens. My study will involve the evaluation of various sand topdressing practices on three creeping bentgrass cultivars maintained under two fertility levels.

I chose Purdue because it has a great reputation for producing meaningful contributions to the green industry, particularly in the golf course sector. My career goal is to become a USGA Regional Agronomist, and I am hopeful that my education at Purdue will better my chances acquiring this position.
A BIG THANK YOU

The Turf Program would like to thank all our Alumni for giving Purdue University students the chance to intern at their business. This allows our students to travel the world and make their educational experience much more fulfilling. If you have an internship opportunity that you would like posted please fax it to 765-496-6335 or mail it to: Department of Agronomy, Attn: Dr. Cale Bigelow, 915 W. State Street, West Lafayette, IN 47907-2054.

2005 December

GRADUATES

James Bergdoll
Brian Bornino
Ryan DeFord
James Newman
Ryan Riesenberg; South Bend Country, South Bend, IN
David Shell; Chippendale Golf Course, Kokomo, IN
Cory St. Clair; Dominican Republic
Kevin Wolfe; Lafayette Country Club, Lafayette, IN

TURF CLUB

The turf club is becoming more prominent at Purdue University. There meetings include fun events such as a golf outing, along with educational speakers. This group has also become active with the Midwest Regional Turf Foundation by attending and volunteering at various functions and raising money for travel to competitions. The 2006 turf club officers are Dan Mudd, President; Nick Gressley, Vice President; Jon Trappe, Treasurer; Steve Ruckman, Secretary; and Brian Chalifoux, Chapter Liaison.

STUDENTS TAKE FIRST PLACE AT STMA MEETINGS

“It felt great to hear Purdue announced as the winners”, commented the students. The first place team consisted of Joey Stevenson-senior, Daniel Mudd-junior, Nick Gressley-junior and Chase Best-senior.

The second annual Student Challenge Exam at the Sports Turf Managers Association (STMA) Meetings was held in Orlando, FL. Teams from various colleges and universities participated in a written exam on sports turf and sports field topics. The nearly three-hour competition included topics such as, the identification of insects, grasses, & weeds, plant physiology and construction of athletic fields.

LET’S HEAR ALL ABOUT IT...

Do you need to update your home and/or work address, go to our website:
http://www.agry.purdue.edu/turf/alum/alumform.htm and submit an easy form.

Have you made an accomplishment in your life that you feel needs to be recognized. Let us know by faxing us (765)496-6335 or mailing us at Purdue University
Agronomy Department, Turf Program
915 W. State Street
West Lafayette, IN 47907

We look forward to hearing from you.