

MERCHANDISER OF THE YEAR

Private Category

Craig S. Hamet, PGA

Washington Golf and Country Club, Arlington, Virginia

Craig was born January 12, 1968 in Washington, D.C. to Warner and Carol Hamet. He has two sisters, Carolyn Russell and Cathy Daughenbaugh. Craig's golf background began in the late 70's at Bowie Golf and Country Club in Bowie, Maryland when his parents bought a membership for him and he began practicing and playing golf with other juniors during the summers. Bowie's Head PGA Professional Fred Ryder gave Craig his introduction to The PGA and it is there where he learned the game.

Craig began working at Crofton Country Club in Crofton, Maryland in 1988 in the golf shop and declared his professional status in 1989. He then spent two years at Patuxent Greens Country Club in Laurel, Maryland under Head PGA Professional Tim Austin as an assistant. In 1991, Craig went to work for Jim Folks, Head PGA Professional at Bethesda Country Club as an assistant where he was exposed to the private country club environment. In 1992, Craig moved to Lake Arbor Country Club in Mitchellville, Maryland under Ed Lorenz, PGA Director of Golf, where he learned the "art of merchandising." In addition to working full time, Craig also was a full-time college student. Craig graduated from Bowie State University in Bowie, Maryland in 1991 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Marketing and Finance. After being elected to PGA membership in 1993, Craig moved to Virginia to become the First Assistant PGA Professional at Lansdowne Resort and Golf Club in Lansdowne, Virginia under Head PGA Professional Mike West. Two years later he was selected for the PGA Director of Golf position at Reston National Golf Club in Reston, Virginia. In 1997, Craig moved to Fairfax National Golf Club in Centerville, Virginia to become the PGA Director of Golf. Two years later Craig would return to Patuxent Greens Country Club as the PGA General Manager/Director of Golf. In 2000, Craig moved to Washington Golf and Country Club in Arlington, Virginia under Jeff Jankowski, PGA Director of Golf, and was selected to be their Head PGA Professional.

Craig is currently involved with several PGA programs including Paul Berry's "Get Hooked on Golf" and "Play Golf America." He also serves on The PGA's President's Council for his work in player development. In addition, Craig has helped coach Washington, D.C.'s Maret School golf team and helped create a golf instructional program for the Arlington County Public School system, which has become an after-school sponsored activity.

Craig had many great mentors who helped him become a PGA Professional. The one PGA Professional who best influenced Craig was Ed Lorenz. The idea of taking what you have been given and making something special with it was something Ed could best be remembered for. One thing to which Craig has tried to remain faithful is the idea of exceeding customer expectations. He learns from every experience so that he can better anticipate customers' needs. This allows him to build relationships beyond that of being a merchant, while keeping the staff focused on treating each customer the way you would like to be treated yourself. Although this rule didn't come from any USGA rulebook, Craig feels that's what leaves his customers with a lasting positive impression.

Craig and his very supportive, understanding, and beautiful wife, Tina, have been married for fifteen years. They have a daughter, Taylor, who will be two years old on the 22nd of November. On nights when Tina is not her usually supportive self, Craig has Terp, their 3-year old yellow Lab, to keep him company.