

**James E. Bennett, PGA**  
Assistant PGA Professional of the Year  
Elkridge Club  
Baltimore, Maryland

Jim Bennett was born February 2, 1973 in Tacoma, Washington to parents Diane Richardson and Edward Bennett. He has a step mother, Linda Bennett, brother, Mike Bennett, and step brother Dan Caltagirone. Jim's grandmother, Melba Richardson, was an avid golfer and a member of Maryland Golf & Country Club. He would enjoy rounds with his grandmother and brother at Rocky Point Golf Club, and also with his father when he was not playing football, baseball or wrestling. Jim began to play golf around the age of 10, but didn't take the game seriously until he was 15 years old. He and his brother Mike were always very competitive, so when Mike started to play golf, Jim decided he had to try and do it better. Looking back, he is very glad that his brother took up golf.

Jim earned his Associates degree in Hotel, Motel, Restaurant and Club Management from Essex Community College and is also a certified Ping club fitter. His first golf related job was as a cart boy at the Elkridge Club when he was 15 years old, working under David Jones and Lance Poe, PGA. Some of Jim's amateur accomplishments include: winner of the 1990 Paragon Open, 1991 Baltimore County High School Champion, 1992 and 1993 All-Conference and All-Region for Essex Community College, 1992 & 1993 Division II Junior College National Championship Qualifier, and receiving a golf scholarship to the University of Tennessee at Martin.

Jim became a golf professional in 1997 and was elected to PGA membership in April 2008. He worked as Tournament Coordinator at Grand Cypress Resort in Orlando, Fla. from January 1997 to January 2002. He then became the first assistant professional at Orange Tree Golf Club in Orlando from January 2002 to March 2006. He then moved to Maryland and took the assistant professional job at Elkridge Club in Baltimore.

Jim has served as Vice President of the MAPGA Assistant Professional Association (APA) in 2008 and was elected President of the APA in 2009. He also serves as the A-8 (Assistant's) Director on the MAPGA Board of Directors.

Jim's goal is to make sure that every incoming apprentice or PGA Professional does not feel "lost" in the system. He says that if you don't like the way things are being run, get involved so you can directly influence the decisions that are being made. When Jim was a new PGA apprentice in the North Florida Section of The PGA, he had very little guidance when it came to the "work experience requirements" he was doing for the PGA-PGM program. He also had no idea who represented him when it came to his future with the Section. After leaving the North Florida Section to come to the Middle Atlantic Section, Jim heard that there was representation, a tournament series, and educational seminars in the APA.

Jim and his wife, Vanessa, have been married for eight years and they live in Baltimore, Maryland. The couple has two children, Hunter (6) and Jacob (1).