

Joseph C. Plecker, PGA
Horton Smith Award
Baltimore Country Club
Timonium, Maryland

Joe was born on January 4, 1972 to Coleman and Barbara Plecker. He has one sister, Beth, and a brother in law Bob. Joe graduated from Loyola Blakerfield High School in Baltimore, Maryland in 1990 and attended Seton Hall University from 1991-1993. He graduated from Towson University in 1995 with a Bachelor of Science in Sport Management and played golf on both university golf teams.

Joe began playing golf on July 6, 1978 at the age of six. He and his sister Beth were driven to Towson Golf & Country Club by their mother Barbara. Their father Coleman was then the Head PGA Professional and they were to have their first golf lesson. Joe practiced how to hold the club, how to swing and most importantly, how to behave as a golfer. After their lesson, they each got a sleeve of golf balls and a pocketful of tees. His father then told them they would be playing in a tournament that morning! On the very first day he ever learned how to hold a club he played in his first tournament; the 41st Jimmy Flattery at Hunt Valley Golf Club. Joe doesn't remember how he played, but he remembers how he felt. "I felt a sense of elation, having enjoyed every moment and the company of my fellow junior golfers." Joe also got to meet John Haines, (MAPGA Hall of Fame Class of 2004) Head PGA Professional at Hunt Valley GC, who continues to be a cherished friend in his life. Joe met other junior golfers that day who are still friends today. He went home totally hooked on the game.

Joe's first golf related job was during high school. He worked for his father at Manor Country Club in the bag room and outside services department. At 18, Joe worked for Bob Ross, Head PGA Professional at the Baltusrol Golf Club in New Jersey. He won numerous junior events and is most proud of helping both his high school and college golf teams win their division championships; twice at Loyola 1988 and 1989 and once for Seton Hall in the 1992 Big East Championship. Joe became a golf professional in 1995 and was elected to PGA membership in 1998.

Joe has received numerous awards and is involved in various community service projects. In 2009, he served as a faculty member at the Argentina World Wide Golf School. He trained Argentine professionals on teaching concepts, technologies and improving their business models to help grow the game internationally. In 2007, he was recognized as the MAPGA Teacher of the Year and selected as a National Finalist for the award. Joe was also named Golf Digest Best Teacher in Maryland for 2007-2009.

He has been active with Loyola High School over the past nine years, specifically on behalf of the Dan McNeal Scholarship. The scholarship was created to remember Dan (a classmate of Joe's) who was killed in the September 11th attack on the World Trade Center. Joe helps organize and execute the annual golf tournament that has raised over \$100,000 for the scholarship fund.

Joe is a PGA.com National Advisory Board Member and has been featured on The PGA of America's DVD Instructional Series *Improve Your Game*. He has hosted XM/Sirius Satellite Radio's *PGA Learning Center* and has been a guest on many television and radio shows as a golf expert and representative of The PGA of America.

Joe was selected for this award based on his many contributions in providing educational opportunities in the field of Instruction for our PGA members. Joe coordinated the 2007 MAPGA Teaching Summit and has taught numerous seminars on Golf Instruction.

Joe has been married to his wonderful wife, Bridget Colleen Plecker since 2008. Bridget is a social worker specializing in hospice care working for Seasons Hospice. She is a source of inspiration for Joe as well as the love of his life. They live in Towson, and have a cat, Winnie and a dog, Rudi!

Joe's philosophy is to approach each day as a new opportunity to positively impact others by example through his life: with honesty, sincerity and a dedicated work ethic.