

## **YOUTH PLAYER DEVELOPMENT AWARD**

This award bestows special recognition on a PGA Professional who is a leader in junior golf, reflects the image and qualities that juniors can emulate, and provides opportunities for juniors to learn and play golf.

**Leighann Albaugh, PGA**  
Magnolia Green Golf Club  
Moseley, Virginia

Leighann Albaugh was selected as the recipient of the 2018 Youth Player Development Award for her contributions to growing community outreach through junior programming. Her community outreach includes golf exposure opportunities (SNAG, Golfzilla, etc.) in grade schools and at multiple community events, reaching over 4,000 families annually.

Leighann was born on December 2, 1979 in Rockford, Ill. to parents Dr. Donald and Meta Rastede. Her family also includes a sister Lisa and a brother Freddy. Leighann began playing golf at the age of seven after her maternal grandfather introduced her to the game at his home club in Green Valley, Az. His intent was to occupy his energetic granddaughter during a visit over spring break. After spotting her potential and enthusiasm for the game, Leighann's maternal and paternal grandparents united in championing her journey through the game of golf.

Leighann's first golf related job was an internship after her freshman year at Methodist University in 1999. She interned at the Clinton Country Club in Clinton, IA. During her time at the university, Leighann was an NCAA Academic All-American, All American Honorable Mention, member of the NCAA Division III National Championship Team (placed T4th individually), and co-captain of the women's golf team.

Throughout the years, she has held nine positions as a collegiate coach, an assistant and head professional and an instructor in the game of golf. At Magnolia Green, growing junior programming at the facility level has been a major part of her role. Her in-school community outreach program has continued to thrive and expand throughout its three years of existence. She has a structured curriculum for children ages 2-18 that includes competition, clinic, camp and adult/junior components. Leighann's programming is designed to utilize golf as a tool for the development and practice of motor skills, social skills, critical thinking & emotional regulation in a safe and positive learning environment.

Leighann has also worked directly with 'underserved and at-risk' populations through outreach with the Richmond Police Athletic League. She worked with 200 PAL kids each week for an eight-week period. While directing the Robins Jr Golf Program, Leighann

worked with more than 3,000 juniors each year in the Greater Richmond Community through camps/clinics/leagues and in-school outreach programs.

Leighann's contributions to junior golf and player development expand into the high school and collegiate ranks. This past year, Leighann served as the coach for Cosby High School. Leighann has been a successful college golf coach at both the NCAA DI and DIII levels. Her players have a strong track record of continuous performance improvement under her direction. In 2013 & 2014 she was named the Old Dominion Athletic Coach of the Year as well as leading the Randolph-Macon Yellow Jackets to winning the 2013 & 2014 ODAC Conference Championships. Throughout her collegiate coaching career, Leighann has recruited and coached six Academic All Americans, one Rookie of the Year, one Player of the Year and ten All-Conference Honorees.

Leighann has embraced opportunities to contribute to helping other professionals grow their junior programs. She has shared her 'best practices' during educational seminars, as a panelist at the Spring Teaching Seminar and as a presenter at the 2016 MAPGA Teaching Summit as well as through submissions to national publications. She is committed to developing and mentoring future professionals. To date, she has had the opportunity to mentor and develop 28 future professionals. As a PGA Professional Golf Management alum herself, she designed a comprehensive curriculum where PGA PGM interns are exposed to all facets of running an instructional operation. Interns learn how to communicate and apply a basic understanding of biomechanics, impact & ball flight to teaching students. Leighann's goal is to impart interns with a solid understanding of learning and child development as well as a basic skill set to develop and run their own high quality junior program curriculum.

Leighann believes that her primary role as a golf professional, coach and instructor is to develop, inspire, motivate and support people to realize their fullest potential. She leads by example through the work ethic and values instilled in her by her parents and a dedication to lifelong learning. She believes in being continually curious. Throughout her playing, coaching and teaching careers she has been blessed with the opportunity to learn from many great instructors and coaches. Her passion is to give back to the game by passing on the knowledge others have instilled in her.

Leighann and her husband Jay have been married for eleven years. Jay is the Director of Golf at the College of William and Mary.