

BILL STRAUSBAUGH AWARD

This award bestows special recognition on a PGA Professional who has shown outstanding integrity, commitment to mentoring their fellow PGA Professionals in improving their employment situations, and involvement in community and charitable activities. The award is named in honor of the late "Coach" Bill Strausbaugh, former Head PGA Professional at Columbia Country Club in Chevy Chase, Maryland, and member of the MAPGA Hall of Fame Class of 1989.

Jay Dufty, PGA

*Washington Golf & Country Club
Arlington, VA*

Mentoring fellow PGA Professionals has been a passion for Jay for the past 20 years. Mentored early in the profession by Larry Murphy, a Minnesota PGA Section Hall of Fame member, Jay learned firsthand that the success can be measured in how one mentors and coaches those around him.

Jay Dufty was born January 23, 1973 in Morris, MN to parents Doug and Karen Dufty and has one sister, Paula. He was first introduced to the game at the age of 7 by his father who was the Head Wrestling Coach and professor of Sports Medicine at the University of Minnesota-Morris. Coach Dufty would teach golf in the summer months to students and Jay would often tag along hitting golf balls alongside the students. His first golf related job was at Oxbow CC in Fargo, North Dakota as a caddy before working at Moorhead CC under Mr. Murphy through high school. Jay went to college at New Mexico State University where he earned his degree and PGA Membership in 1998 through the PGA Golf Management Program.

Jay began his professional career at Blueberry Pines Golf Club in 1996 where he stayed until 2000. From 1997-2014 Jay spent time at multiple TPC Courses; Scottsdale, Myrtle Beach, and Potomac at Avenel Farm. In 2015, Jay headed to Washington Golf & CC as Director of Golf and has been there since. Throughout his career Jay has earned many awards, 2011 First Tee of Montgomery County "Bob Metz" Service Award, 2014 MAPGA President's Award, 2014 TPC Network Golf Professional of the Year and the 2018 MAPGA Private Club Merchandiser of the Year.

As a member of the Section Membership Committee, Jay has met many aspiring assistant golf professionals through the new associate orientation. Often, he has followed up with associates to ensure they have mentors or need any assistance. One such instance involved Nyles Smith, a young associate trying to carve out a career at Langston Golf Course. Nyles requested a lunch meeting with Jay. He could tell Nyles was very interested in learning new ideas and systems that could apply or work at Langston. Jay offered Nyles a part-time job at TPC Potomac so he could learn more and provide ongoing mentoring opportunities. It was one of the most fulfilling and unique relationships in Jay's professional career that sadly ended with Nyle's losing a battle to cancer. Luckily, through Nyles, Jay created relationships and now speaks often to Howard University business students about the importance of Golf & Business.

In his tenure, Jay has been motivated to assist all golf professionals in forwarding their careers. Eleven assistant professionals in his tenure have moved on to take on their own facilities and their own mentoring opportunities. Jay truly believes that mentoring is one of the greatest gifts a PGA professional can provide. Jays' goal has always been to give back to the game more than he has received. Jay is the current Central Chapter President and has served on the Employment, Membership, and Sponsorship committees within the MAPGA Section.

Jay has been married to Michelle Dufty for 15 years. They are blessed with two kids; Mason (12) and Mia (10).