



# PGA

Michigan Section

## BIO OF SPECIAL AWARDS CANDIDATE

Name of Nominee: **Aaron M. Waltz**

Year Elected to Membership: **2001**

Award Nominated for: **Horton Smith Award**

Briefly describe your achievements/accomplishments that would pertain to this award:

Once again I am extremely honored to be nominated for the Northern Michigan PGA Horton Smith Award. I take this nomination extremely serious and I am honored to have been selected as the 2013, 2014 and 2016 recipient. Throughout the course for the 2015/2016 calendar year I am extremely proud of my educational accomplishments, leadership activities and mentoring to Ferris State University PGA Golf Management students.

As the academic advisor and mentor to more than 250 PGA Golf Management students at Ferris during the above mention time frame, I take a great sense of pride in continuing my education that will enhance my ability to deliver quality PGA and University content to all students. This past year I have looked for new ways to enhance the PGA Students education opportunities and further prepare them for PGA membership and long lasting careers in the industry. For example, in February of 2015, I was invited by Dave Philips, PGA and Dr. Greg Rose to participate in the new TPI level 1 training. The goal of this trip was to become personally level 1 certified and to also pave the way to allow our Ferris students to become TPI level 1 certified by their senior year. Becoming TPI Certified has given me a new prospective on how to better instruct the PGA students with their Level 1-2-3 PGA teaching curriculum and this certification has also enhanced my ability to give more efficient instruction to my students.

While at Ferris I have successfully completed an MBA degree while working full time, raising two young children, coaching their sport teams, and achieving personal goals such as running in full and ½ Marathons. For 2017, I have set a personal achievement goal to complete at least one ½ Iron Man and continue to race competitively. I strongly believe in leading by example, this type of personal goal setting and achievement is exactly the type of concepts all PGA students need to understand in order to become successful and distinguish themselves in this competitive industry.

The Mentoring process of new and existing PGA Golf Management Students is extremely exciting and the best part of my daily activities. My goal is to train every student to become a quality professional that is prepared for the workplace. This process begins from the first day a student is enrolled in my PGMG 101 class. I outline to the students what exactly it means to become a PGA Professional and how the challenges of the industry and the golf business is what makes us the most respected professionals in any sports organization. I continually emphasize to the students how easy it is to be good, but how hard it is to become GREAT. My goal is to graduate great students that take advantage of the best employment opportunities available to them and are ready to become the industries next leaders.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

**Aaron M. Waltz**, PGA  
PGA PGM Program Director  
Ferris State University