

GET TO KNOW THE PRO

AWARD – PGA PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AWARD

RECIPIENT – JONATHAN STUART

EMPLOYER – SAND VALLEY RESORT

ELECTED TO PGA MEMBERSHIP – 2017

Hometown – Gainesville, FL

Current Residence – Wisconsin Rapids, WI

College – Professional Golfers College

Accreditations

Certified PGA Professional - Golf Operations, Executive Management, and Teaching and Coaching

One noteworthy item that stood out from his award application – Is a key part of executing the Sand Valley Professional Development Academy (SVPDA), geared towards someone new to the golf industry or a PGM intern. The program gives these individuals something more than just a paycheck or work experience. Examples include short education courses presented by the Sand Valley agronomy team, accounting staff, tournament department and the local PGA career consultant.

Important past work experiences

Westmoor Country Club - Assistant Golf Professional

Pelican Point Golf Club - Head Golf Professional

Lake Geneva Country Club - Assistant Golf Professional

Best piece of advice I have been given – Never be the smartest person in the room. Always find ways to grow and educate yourself; it may not always be given to you.

How were you introduced to the game of golf and where did you learn to play? – I am a self-taught player for the most part, a few lessons here and there. I picked up golf clubs for the first time in the 10th grade. My friend asked me to come out for the golf team, and I told him he was crazy, and now here I am. We stay in touch to this day and stood up each other's wedding. It's amazing what this game can create.

Biggest hope for the golf industry – For us as PGA professionals to continue to be the experts in the game and business of golf. To improve the perception that the golf industry can and is a viable career path. It all starts with us and spreading a positive message.

Favorite way to spend free time – Doing anything with my family. My wife Megan and our two daughters, Saylor and Kinsley, are the joys of my life. Anything with them is priceless.

The best homecooked meal is – Tortellini Soup with Italian Sausage and Spinach

Favorite place to hang out in Wisconsin – I love going back to my wife Megan's hometown of Muskego and attending local festivals with live music, while spending time with her parents and our kids.

What are you most looking forward to in 2023 - personally or professionally?

Personally - I look forward to watching our two-year-old grow into a big sister.

Professionally - I am looking forward to welcoming a new wave of hires and returners to Sand Valley and being there for them as they navigate life's journey.

Comments or Thoughts – What does this award mean to you? “This award is very humbling and rewarding, knowing that my peers nominated and selected me to receive this recognition. I have had so many professionals pour their energy and time into my development, and the least I can do is pay it forward. It is an honor to work with the golf leadership staff at Sand Valley. They are the true heroes carrying out the vision of staff development every day, I can't thank them enough for what they do.”

