

Missy Does It

The 2012 MGA Distinguished Service Award goes to a woman who has used her varied talents to benefit the game at every level

BY JIM LANDERS



You don't have to look too far into Missy Crisp's résumé to understand why she was named the recipient of the MGA's 2012 Distinguished Service Award. Intertwined with her list of many successful business ventures is an equally impressive record of volunteer service to the game that spans 25 years. Like few others, she has been willing to use her knowledge in the fields of education, business, technology, and philanthropy and translate it into a career of service to golf that has helped to elevate and grow the game.

Emily "Missy" Crisp was born and raised in New Jersey and earned a bachelor's degree at Vassar College and an MBA from Hofstra University. Her career began in education, but after 20 years of teaching math to elementary and middle school students at the Green Vale School in Old Brookville on Long Island, she began a new career in technology when she founded Crisp Computing Corporation in 1983. The company provided consulting services to businesses and individuals to help them navigate through hardware and software installations as well as provide custom-built applications.

After developing several programs for municipal operations, including one for New York State that tracks property and tax management needs, Crisp Computing merged with another Long Island company, Admit, that develops and markets public-safety software. She went on to serve as CFO of Admit from 1992 to 2010.

Golf entered Missy's life early, at age 5. Growing up she played primarily on Fishers Island (she

is now also a member of Piping Rock and Seminole), and would go on to win the club championship there 14 times. But it was not until later that her passion for golf connected with her professional career. In 1999 she was asked to serve on the board of the United States Senior Women's Golf Association (no relation to the USGA) where she helped that group customize their tournament scoring program. At the same time she also was serving as the Website Administrator and Publications Chair for the Women's Metropolitan Golf Association. She would eventually join the boards of the WMGA and the Women's Long Island Golf Association, and was also the chair of the Ladies Golf Committee at Fishers Island Club.

Missy's work with these groups quickly caught the attention of other influential golf organizations and people, among them Bill Campbell, a fellow Seminole member and chairman of the USGA Nominating Committee, who recognized her unique qualifications and proposed her nomination to the 15-member USGA Executive Committee. He commented at the time, "occasionally, a rare talent comes along, and that's just what Missy is."

She served the USGA Executive Committee for seven years, including as Treasurer from 2004 to 2005 and Secretary from 2006 to 2008, at the time only the second woman to become a USGA officer. While serving the USGA she flourished, serving on the Membership, Audit, Communications and Championships committees, and chairing the U.S. Senior Amateur Committee. A nationally accredited Rules expert, her ability to make difficult and complex rulings on a national stage earned her great respect among peers and players.

Brigid Lamb, a former USGA Executive Committee member and chair of the USGA Women's Committee, served and played with Missy often.



"Missy is a great rules and tournament official; fair, even-handed and knowledgeable, and unafraid to express herself on matters that were important to her," Lamb says.

Perhaps Missy's greatest contribution, however, came as a member of the USGA GHIN Committee that oversees the Golf Handicap and Information Network (GHIN), the USGA service providing Handicap Index calculations for regional and state golf associations. Missy was appointed chair of the committee in 2003 and with her technical background excelled in this role, helping GHIN through a period of great growth and expansion. She also proved to be a valuable member of the USGA Foundation Grants Committee, which directs funding to deserving golf programs across the nation. These include the MGA Foundation's GOLFWORKS student intern program and The First Tee of Metropolitan New York, of which she has been a big supporter.

Through all of her activity, Missy has managed to maintain an active family life with her husband, Peter, and three daughters, and to keep her game intact. She remains an avid competitor, still competing for Piping Rock on the WMGA Team Matches each spring, and continues to officiate at MGA and USGA events.

Career, family, countless hours of service to the game—no matter what the task has been, Missy Crisp has been up to it, and the game of golf is the better for it. She is most deserving of the MGA's most prestigious award. ■

Above: As part of her work with the USGA Foundation's Grants Committee, Missy Crisp hosted Junior Day at Mosholu Golf Course in the Bronx in 2006. Below: At the 2008 USGA Senior Amateur, Missy presented the finalist medal to George Zahringer III.