We are **THE Women in Golf** October 2014

By Caitlyn Doyle

Tara McKenna is the director of the PGA Golf Management program at Florida Gulf Coast University in Fort Myers, Florida. McKenna is a member of both the PGA of America and LPGA Teaching and Club Professional Division - a status held by about 200 female Professionals in the country. PGA Magazine caught up with McKenna to kick off an ongoing series profiling dual members of the PGA and LPGA.

**PGA Magazine**: Why did you choose to be in the golf industry?

**McKenna**: A fellow dual member, Rebecca Dengler, strongly encouraged me to be involved in both organizations, for which I am thankful.

**PGA Magazine**: Has mentorship made a difference in your professional and personal life?

**McKenna**: Most definitely. My father put clubs in my hand by age 4 and took me to the club every weekend. Without that influence, I'm not sure if I would be doing what I am doing now.

**PGA Magazine**: Who is your biggest role model in the game or field of golf? What advice has been given to you that stuck with you?

**McKenna**: Thomas DeBerry in the Northeastern New York PGA Section. He was the reason my primary goal was to become a PGA head professional. He taught me so much about merchandising, owning a golf shop and quality tournament administration. He always treated everyone, no matter the size, like it was a member-guest with respect to setup, reporting and excellent customer service.

**PGA Magazine**: Did you ever see yourself in the position you are today?

**McKenna**: I never thought I would be here. I was fortunate to have a master's degree, which put me in a favorable position to be considered for my current job. I love working and serving as a mentor to our industry's future.

**PGA Magazine**: Who's in your perfect foursome?

**McKenna**: Annika Sorenstam, Bill Clinton, Tim Wakefield and Condoleezza Rice.

**PGA Magazine**: How can we get more young women to pursue a career in golf?

**McKenna**: We have to teach young girls with positive role models to stay in golf. Educating school guidance counselors about the viability of a golf career is another important avenue.

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