

## STATE OF THE INDUSTRY

# Growing Your Teaching and Coaching Expertise



By Lorin Anderson, President

A couple of weeks ago, Dr. Paul Schempp offered our members a webinar on *The Keys to Developing Expert Teaching Skills*. As the director of the only Sport Instruction Research Lab in the country, he is uniquely qualified in this area. By the way, if you haven't yet watched it, I suggest you check it out on the members website in the

videos/webinars archive under the Career Issues menu.

Dr. Schempp's webinar reminded me of the conversations he and I had about developing teaching skills. I was managing GOLF Magazine's Top 100 program at the time and Dr. Schempp was our lead consultant. He helped us develop a questionnaire that was instrumental in identifying high quality candidates. Nearly 20 years later, the magazine still uses many of those questions to evaluate the hundreds of applications that come in.

Golf Magazine is currently accepting self-nominations for its 2015-16 list of America's Top 100 Teachers. Deadline is June 27. Email [david\\_denunzio@golf.com](mailto:david_denunzio@golf.com) for a copy of the application. As you complete the application you may be wondering why certain questions are being asked. So let me provide the thinking behind the questionnaire and what Dr. Schempp's research has revealed about the keys to becoming an expert golf instructor.

First and foremost, great teachers are always learning. It's a never ending process that includes lots of continuing education. Have you attended a summit in the past year? Have you gone to section instruction seminars? Did you recently add a new certification? Have you visited and

shadowed another teacher instructing? When was the last time you bought an instruction book or video? When was the last time you read a book about coaching another sport? Or a book about psychology, fitness, or motor skill acquisition? When was the last time you watched other teachers' methodologies on YouTube? The list can go on and on. The best teachers are continually monitoring and participating in all of the above avenues for sharpening their teaching and coaching skills.

You will see multiple questions asking about your continuing education and the answers to these questions were always weighted heavily when I was at the magazine.

Another critical point is that great teachers usually are actively involved in shaping the industry's future. We always monitored the teachers who were on their section education committees, who presented at various industry events and who authored instruction-related media. Teachers with fresh, interesting ideas usually bubble up to the surface and are asked to speak and publish.

If you've been resisting the opportunity to be more involved in impacting the industry, shed your inhibition. It's important that all credible voices be heard and participate. Fortunately, most Proponent Group members are already actively participating in these big discussions, which is part of the reason so many of you have been recognized among the game's finest coaches.

Finally, great teachers take responsibility for their students' successes and failures. If you're still blaming the student when they "don't get it," you aren't an expert instructor yet. But if you continue to learn and you engage with your industry peers – as Dr. Schempp suggests – you'll get there sooner rather than later.

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