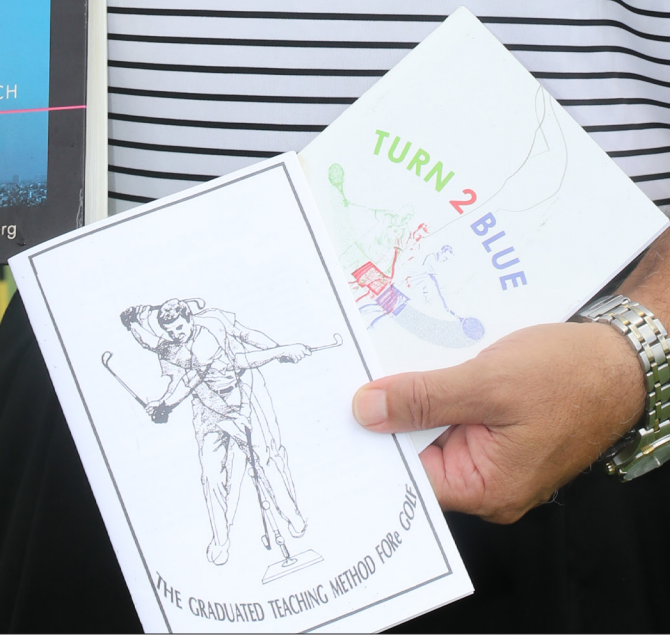
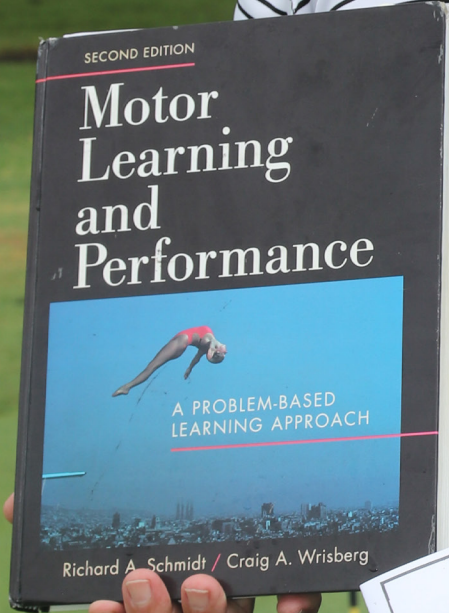


Khater Salomon Teaches Golf the Scientific Way

By Dean M. Shapiro,
Senior Editor



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Back in the early 1990s, while teaching a group of children how to play golf, their instructor, Khater Salomon, quickly realized that the golf clubs he provided were too long for them.

Frustrated by their inability to swing the clubs, Khater had an epiphany. “I said to myself ‘There’s got to be an easier way.’ And then it was like a bolt of lightning hit my brain: short clubs, higher tees.”

From that experience the Graduated Teaching Method FORE Golf was born.

“Many of these kids had played tee ball where they learned to play baseball by hitting a ball off an elevated tee. I simply applied the same principle to teach them the basics of how to play golf,” Khater explained. “I designed a higher tee and shortened the clubs down to a size they could easily swing

But there was more to be gained from using the devices than just learning how to hit the ball. The instruction also broke the golf swing down to its basic components. The teaching also covered the entire arc of the swing from start to finish after contact with the ball, including the proper rotation movements of the hands, arms, feet, hips and most of the entire body.

From teaching children, Khater went on to instructing adults using the same principles and teaching devices on golf courses in Louisiana and Mississippi. He also designed a program and led a scientific study of physical motion at Southern University at New Orleans. A decade or so later the GTM program spun off another teaching program developed and taught by Khater: Turn 2 Blue.

“I was teaching a golf class at Tulane University and I had some students who couldn’t understand how to turn through the ball during the swing,” Khater said. “So, with God’s help, I came up with a theory that was based on color-coding. My good friend, Dr. Mike Meehan (audio-visual supervisor at Southern University) explained to me that there are three primary colors: green, blue and red. I incorporated those colors into a series of

teaching devices that I invented.”

Those devices include a baseball bat, a tennis racquet and a golf club. One of them, a color-coded flat paddle for teaching the proper baseball swing, was granted a patent from the U.S. Office of Patents and Trademarks in 2014.



Khater Salomon displays the color-coded devices he uses to teach the proper swings for tennis and baseball.

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Born into a large family in Bluefields, Nicaragua in 1951, Khater came to the U.S. four years later. His father, an import businessman from the Middle East, and his mother, a schoolteacher and native of Nicaragua, brought the family to New Orleans and they settled Uptown on Henry Clay Avenue. They later moved to the West Bank where Khater still lives today.

Khater attended schools in the Uptown area and graduated from Alcee Fortier High School in 1969. During his high school years he was an all-around athlete excelling in football, basketball and baseball.

“I always had a passion for sports and that passion continues to this day,” Khater said.

After high school Khater worked in the garment industry in New York City for about two years and, after returning to New Orleans, he worked a variety of jobs. These included overseeing a chain of eight small grocery stores run by family members throughout the city and later supervising newspaper deliveries for the Times-Picayune.

Khater’s interest in golf began soon after his return to New Orleans in the early 1970s. As he explained, “I wanted a sport I could participate in and play during my spare time. Golf was the first thing to come to my mind.”

His first instruction came from Donald Millet, a golf professional who was a regular on the PGA Tour and whose daughter was married to one of Khater’s older brothers. “My brother told me Mr. Millet was the best in town and he was,” Khater said. “He was my instructor for about two or three years. Then I started shooting some really good scores and began doing qualifying rounds for PGA events.”

Warming up on occasions alongside such golfing immortals as Tom Watson and Lee Trevino, Khater qualified in a local tournament and won a small sum of money but he never played in any of the Open tournaments along the PGA circuit.

“I was a very good player but never really pursued the Tour because I had the family businesses to manage at the time and I couldn’t take off and travel like the tour pros were doing,” he explained.

Khater’s best golf score was 63, nine shots under par. “It was at a small local tournament in City Park and I made nine birdies (one shot under par for a hole). I’ll always remember that. It was one of those achievements you never forget.”

Did he ever make a hole in one, he is asked. “That’s one thing I’ve never done in competition,” he replied. “I have come inches from the hole. I’ve hit the flag stick and landed a few inches short of the cup. I’ve made a lot of holes in two and a lot of eagles (two shots under par) but never a hole in one.”



Khater Salomon demonstrates the correct stance and swing technique on the putting green at the Joseph M. Bartholomew Golf Course in Pontchartrain Park. PHOTOGRAPHY BY AB SYKES PHOTOGRAPHY

And so today, 40 years later as a seasoned golfer, instructor and innovator, Khater cheerfully, patiently and expertly imparts his knowledge of the golf game to all who are willing to learn from his proven skills and unique teaching methods and equipment. Among the hundreds of students he's mentored are such celebrities as Chef Emeril Lagasse, Loretta Swit ("Hot Lips" Houlihan on the TV show M.A.S.H.), former Channel 4 News anchor Angela

Hill, the late former Harlem Globetrotter Billy Ray Hobley and members of the New Orleans Saints.

Armed with finely tuned motor skills and an encyclopedic knowledge of scientific principles involved with the movements of the human body and the thought processes that go into those movements, Khater, continues to offer his expertise to all who are willing to learn: from pre-school children to adults to senior citizens.

He has worked with individuals who sustained injuries and he proudly displays letters of commendation from physical therapists with whom he has partnered in helping people get through their recoveries. He has worked with autistic children at Children's Hospital of New Orleans, as well as with seniors at various living centers around the city, some of whom are confined to wheelchairs or have limited mobility.

Khater Salomon is taking applications for summer classes (kids and adults) at Stonebridge Country Club on the West Bank adjacent to the City of Gretna. Those who wish to sign up or receive more information can do so by calling or texting 504-344-1530. The Turn 2 Blue website, which features a 2-minute Channel 26 news story, can be accessed at turn2blue.net.



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