



Stouffville native Mark Valenti (far left) was part of a golf trick shot video that became an Internet sensation.

Local golfer drains final putt in viral video sensation

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In the short term, Mark Valenti has aspirations of becoming a teaching professional at a high end golf course.

But in the meantime, the 21-year-old Stouffville resident can boast of being part of a golfing video that has recently gone viral.

A senior at Campbell University in Buies Creek, N.C. where he's enrolled in the professional golf management program, Valenti and eight of his school course cohorts carried out a golf trick shot video described as a putting conga line.

Conducted at the Keith Hills Country Club, which is affiliated with Campbell University, the video had each of the participants spaced out at an equal distance on a putting green.

From there they putted simultaneously with the hope each of their attempts would go in the hole.

After making what Valenti recalled were a "decent amount of attempts" and conceding they nearly gave up, their efforts were eventually rewarded when each of the balls landed

in the cup. But the amount of interest that followed was unexpected.

"It was pretty shocking that the video received such a high number of views so fast," he said (http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XIZ6XXnSPvA&feature=player_embedded).

Coming up with the idea to create the video, Valenti said it stemmed from a prior one that a fellow classmate saw in which six golfers putted simultaneously and each made their attempt.

With the intention of taking things a few steps further and adding to the challenge, Valenti and his school mates brought in three more participants.

Valenti had to shoulder the most pressure as the participant farthest from the hole.

"Sure, there was a little more pressure if I was the only one to miss, but I felt confident," said Valenti, a two handicap. "I'm a fairly good long putter, so my fellow classmates thought it was a good idea to be back there."

Introduced to the game by his father when he was 11, Valenti is to become a PGA member following graduation later this year with a bachelor's degree in business.



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