

## Spotlight on Elianni De La Cruz

WMGA Scholarship Recipient ~ Class of 2018

“De La Cruz, hurry up and make sure you get to practice,” shouts Mr. Brian Lawshe, history teacher and golf coach at Passaic County Technical Institute. Sandwiched between her older brother, Jordan, and a younger brother, Evan, being called by her last name is strictly normal for this tomboy. Elianni liked all sports, but once she was recruited for the golf team, golf became her preferred sport. She found golf relaxing and it became her passion.

She loved golf and the tempo associated with it. She learned to play one hole at a time. Even when she had one, two, or three bad holes in a row, the next tee was a new hole and a new opportunity to change the outcome and do well.

Elianni has accomplished so much in her freshman year at Seton Hall University. She has already decided on Economics as her major with a minor in history. She also hopes to double major in Political Science. She is passionate about her studies. She is passionate about her career plans as well. After an extensive application process, she was awarded a spot in the "Summer Institute for Pre-Legal Studies", a program led by professors from the Seton Hall Law School. This experience will give her the opportunity to see if a career in law suits her.

She acknowledges that the college experience has helped her grow. She has learned from the entire university community. Her professors have shown passion for their subjects, and have been role models for her. They have also taught her to follow what she loves. She has had many proud moments at college, but she is most proud of her election as Senator in the University Student Government. In addition to that honor, she is Chair of the Student Life Committee. Quite an accomplishment for a freshman!

Aside from her academics, Elianni has learned to make her own decisions while living on her own. She still may call her mom to review her options, but she loves the fact she is independent now. She has learned that every experience is a new opportunity.

Seton Hall University has awarded Elianni a full scholarship. The WMGA Foundation Scholarship pays for her books, and dormitory fees, allowing her to live on campus and take part in a full campus experience. Elianni thanks the WMGA Foundation profusely for making such a huge difference in her life.

PS to this lovely story:

We all know that golf brings the best people together. Gerri Scarpa, past president of the WMGA and WMGA Foundation, had surgery this winter. She had practical nurse visits at home while she was recovering. Those of you that know Gerri, realize she heals quickly. One day when her visiting nurse arrived, Gerri said, “I am feeling great, we should just talk.” Here is the story in Gerri’s words.

“Well, today PN (practical nurse) from Valley Home Care came to assist me. Well, I didn't need much help so when she got done so quickly, we sat gabbing. She asked about my family; then I hers. She's showing me pictures of her three kids and her teenage daughter she shows me with a golf club in hand and goes on to tell me her daughter is at Seton Hall University. Yada yada yada.....and Elianni is there with golf scholarship monies helping her. I look at her name and it rings a bell "De La Cruz" from PCTI. Didn't take much to put together, checked WMGA website and she calls Elianni. She and I have nice conversation; the Board sure picked a winner; Elianni exemplifies all our scholarship is all about.”

